



Demonstrators block Public Square in Cleveland during a protest over the police shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice. A grand jury declined to indict a white rookie police officer in the killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was shot while playing with what turned out to be a pellet gun, a prosecutor said Monday.

(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

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# Iraqi troops advance in Ramadi, pockets of IS remain

SINAN SALAHEDDIN

Associated Press

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — Iraqi forces backed by U.S.-led airstrikes drove Islamic State militants out of the center of Ramadi on Monday and seized the main government complex there, according to military officials, who said insurgents are still dug into pockets of the city west of Baghdad.

Ramadi, the provincial capital of the sprawling Anbar province, fell to IS in May, marking a major setback for Iraqi forces and the U.S.-led campaign. Ramadi and nearby Fallujah, which is controlled by IS, saw some of the heaviest fighting of the eight-year U.S. intervention in Iraq.

In recent months Iraqi forces launched several offen-

sives to retake Ramadi, but all had stalled. Iraqi troops began advancing into some parts of the city, located about 130 kilometers (80 miles) west of Baghdad, earlier this month. But their progress was slowed by snipers, booby traps and the militants' destruction of bridges leading into the city center.

The heavy fighting and limited access to front-lines made it difficult to follow the troops' progress, and Iraqi officials issued a string of sometimes contradictory statements.

Brig. Gen. Ahmed al-Belawi told The Associated Press that IS militants stopped firing from inside the government complex at around 8 a.m. Monday and said troops were encircling it as



Iraqi soldiers plant a national flag in the government complex in central Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, Dec. 28, 2015. Iraqi military forces on Monday retook a strategic govern-

ment complex in the city of Ramadi from Islamic State militants who have occupied the city since May.

(AP Photo)

engineering teams cleared booby traps.

A few hours later, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool announced in a televised statement that Ramadi had been "fully liberated."

But Gen. Ismail al-Mahlawi, head of military operations in Anbar, quickly clarified that Iraqi forces had only retaken the government complex and that parts of the city remained under IS control. He said IS fighters still control 30 percent of Ramadi and that government forces do not fully control many districts from which IS fighters have retreated.

"The troops only entered the government complex," al-Mahlawi told The Associated Press. "We can't say that Ramadi is fully liberated. There are still neighborhoods under their control and there are still pockets of resistance."

Iraqi state TV showed troops, some waving Iraqi flags and others brandishing machine guns, chanting and dancing inside what it described as the government complex. Soldiers could be seen slaughtering sheep in celebration near heavily damaged buildings.

Col. Steve Warren, a U.S.

military spokesman in Baghdad, told AP that "today's success is a proud moment for Iraq."

"The clearance of the government center is a significant accomplishment and is the result of many months of hard work by the Iraqi army, the counterterrorism service, the Iraqi air force, local and federal police, and tribal fighters," Warren said.

He said the U.S.-led coalition has carried out more than 630 airstrikes, in addition to training security forces and providing both advice and equipment to clear bombs and booby traps.

Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, the head of the U.S. Central Command, congratulated Iraqi forces on the "important operational achievement."

"Coupled with other recent ISIL losses across Iraq and Syria... the seizure of the Government Center clearly demonstrates that the enemy is losing momentum as they steadily cede territory," he said in a statement, using an acronym for the IS group.

An Iraqi military officer told the AP that the militants had retreated from the government complex to other parts of the city. □

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# Officer Won't Face Charges in Death of Tamir Rice

**MARK GILLISPIE**  
**Associated Press**

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—A grand jury declined to indict a white rookie police officer in the killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, a black youngster who was shot while playing with what turned out to be a pellet gun, a prosecutor said Monday. Prosecutor Tim McGinty said it was “indisputable” that the boy was gunned down while drawing the pistol from his waistband — either to hand the weapon over to police or to show them it wasn’t real. But McGinty said the officer and his partner had no way of knowing that.

“Simply put, given this perfect storm of human error, mistakes and miscommunications by all involved that day, the evidence did not indicate criminal conduct by police,” McGinty said. He said patrolman Timothy Loehmann was justified in opening fire: “He had reason to fear for his life.”

Tamir’s family condemned the decision but echoed the prosecutor in urging those disappointed to express themselves “peacefully and democratically.” Barricades were set up outside a Cleveland courthouse in case of protests, and a few demonstrators gathered, holding up pictures of Tamir and others killed by police around the country.

A grainy surveillance-camera video of the boy’s November 2014 shooting provoked outrage nationally, and together with other killings of black people by po-

lice in places such as Ferguson, Missouri, and New York City, it helped fuel the Black Lives Matter movement.

Tamir was gunned down by Loehmann within two seconds of the officer’s police cruiser skidding to a stop near the boy outside a city recreation center. Loehmann and his white training partner, Frank Garback, were responding to an emergency call about a man waving a gun.

Tamir was carrying a borrowed airsoft gun that looked like a real gun but shot nonlethal plastic pellets. It was missing its telltale orange tip.

The grand jury had been hearing evidence and testimony since mid-October. In explaining the decision not to charge either officer, McGinty said police radio personnel contributed to the tragedy by failing to pass along the “all-important fact” that the person who called police said the gunman was probably a youngster and the gun probably wasn’t real.

Assistant Prosecutor Matthew Meyer said it was “extremely difficult” to tell the difference between the pellet gun and a real one. And he said Tamir was big for his age — 5-foot-7 (1.7 meters) and 175 pounds (80 kilograms) — and could have easily passed for someone much older.

Before police arrived, the youngster was seen repeatedly drawing the gun from his waistband and pointing it at other children, Meyer said.

The Cleveland police department reached a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department earlier this year to overhaul its use of force. The settlement was prompted largely by a car

Loehmann’s actions were reasonable. The family also said that the prosecutor allowed the officers to read statements to the grand jury without being subjected to cross-examination.

charges. “She was broken up, and it was very hard,” the prosecutor said.

Both officers insisted that they shouted at Tamir repeatedly to show his hands before Loehmann opened



**Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Timothy McGinty speaks during a news conference at police headquarters, in Cleveland. A grand jury declined to indict a white rookie police officer in the killing of 12-year-old Tamir Rice, who was shot while playing with what turned out to be a pellet gun, a prosecutor said Monday.**

(Lisa DeJong/The Plain Dealer/AP)

chase that ended with the killing of a couple in a 137-shot barrage of police gunfire.

In a statement, Tamir’s family said it was “saddened and disappointed by this outcome — but not surprised.” It accused the prosecutor of “abusing and manipulating the grand jury process to orchestrate a vote against indictment.” Tamir’s family charged that McGinty improperly hired use-of-force experts to tell the grand jury that

The family renewed its request for the U.S. Justice Department to step in and conduct “a real investigation.” Federal prosecutors in Cleveland noted Monday that a civil rights investigation into the case is already underway.

In addition, Tamir’s family has filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the two officers and the city. McGinty said it was a “tough conversation” with Tamir’s mother when she was told there would be no

fire. Loehmann fired twice, with one shot missing the boy. “With his hands pulling the gun out and his elbow coming up, I knew it was a gun and it was coming out. I saw the weapon in his hands coming out of his waistband and the threat to my partner and myself was real and active,” Loehmann told investigators. After the boy’s killing, it was learned that Loehmann had washed out from the police force in a Cleveland suburb. □





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# US Midwest storm brings twisters, floods; not over yet

**DAVID WARREN  
 REESE DUNKLIN  
 Associated Press**

**GARLAND, Texas (AP)** — The storm system that spawned tornadoes in Texas over the weekend brought winter storm woes to the Midwest on Monday, worsening flooding already blamed for more than a dozen deaths and prompting hundreds of flight cancellations. At least 11 people died and dozens were injured in

the tornadoes that swept through the Dallas area Saturday and caused substantial damage. That, plus the flooding in Missouri and Illinois, was the latest in a succession of severe weather events across the U.S. that have led to at least 45 deaths in less than a week. A range of precipitation was forecast Monday for the country's midsection, including heavy snow, ice and blustery winds in parts

of 11 states and heavy rain in already-waterlogged parts of Missouri and Arkansas. The system caused nearly 900 flights to be canceled — more than a third of which were at Chicago's two main airports — and 500 to be delayed, according to flight-tracking service FlightAware. Authorities in Georgia said they recovered the body of a man whose car was swept away when flood-



**A Jeep Liberty sits destroyed on Shipman Street after a tornado in Rowlett, Texas, Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015. The storm system that spawned tornadoes in Texas over the weekend brought winter storm woes to the Midwest on Monday, worsening flooding already blamed for more than a dozen deaths.**

(N. Hunsinger/ Dallas Morning News/AP)

waters overtook it. They also recovered a second body, a death they said later Monday did not appear to be storm-related. In North Texas, officials estimated as many as 1,450 homes were damaged or destroyed by at least nine tornadoes. Natalie Guzman, 33, took photos of her family's home in Garland, a Dallas suburb. The garage wall had collapsed and the roof fell in. The only part of the house that appeared to be spared was the master bathroom, where her brother-in-law took shelter Saturday night. He was the only one at home and told her he had just enough time to get himself and his dogs into the bathroom. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott made disaster declarations

Sunday for four counties including Dallas and warned that the number of victims could rise. The governor of Oklahoma declared a state of emergency amid blizzard conditions and warnings of severe flooding. Oklahoma emergency officials say more than 50 people have been injured and about 175,000 are without power. To the northeast, several inches of rain caused flooding in Illinois and Missouri, where Gov. Jay Nixon also declared a state of emergency. Nixon says the state's death toll from days of pounding rainfall has risen to 10, and he expects that number to grow. State officials say there have been more than 200 road closures statewide. □

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# TSA increases screening of airport and airline employees



A Transportation Security Administration agent, right, watches as passengers load their items into bins as they pass through security at the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, Friday, Dec. 18, 2015, in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The TSA is increasing random checks of airport and airline employees who hold badges that enable them to bypass security checkpoints.

(AP Photo/Wilfredo Lee)

## SCOTT MAYEROWITZ

AP Airlines Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Transportation Security Administration is increasing random checks of airport and airline employees who hold badges that enable them to bypass security checkpoints.

The decision follows instances in the past two years in which employees used restricted entrances to smuggle guns and launder money. It's also part of a larger push to increase airport security after the

Paris terrorist attacks and the crash of a jet flying between Egypt and Russia, believed to have been brought down by a bomb. In a memo to employees this month, Jose Freig, American Airlines' managing director of corporate security, wrote that "we anticipate the random screening process to increase throughout December and during the 2016 calendar year."

TSA spokesman Bruce Anderson wouldn't say how frequent the additional

checks would become, but pointed to a Nov. 30 statement by Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh C. Johnson saying that since April, the department has "enhanced the continuous, random screening of airport/airline personnel in secure areas and encouraged U.S. airports to reduce employee access points."

"The TSA Administrator and I have recently concluded that we need to double-down on these airport security efforts and will be consulting with airports and airlines to do so," Johnson said.

The American memo, for instance, reminded employees that if they work in a secure area and plan to travel after their shift is over, they must exit the sterile

area and go through TSA screening, with their carry-on luggage, in order to board a flight.

Thousands of U.S. airport workers are permitted to skip security lines after undergoing a background check and obtaining a Security Identification Display Area (SIDA) badge. The system is designed to free up staff at passenger checkpoints and to clear individuals who are considered a minimal security risk. There have been instances, however, when that system has been exploited.

In December 2014, an Atlanta Delta Air Lines baggage handler was arrested, charged with using his security badge to bypass security and deliver guns to a smuggler on a number of occasions. □

## Court affirms assisted suicide conviction

STEVE KARNOWSKI

Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — An appeals court on Monday affirmed the conviction of a U.S. man for assisting the suicide of a British man, but reversed his conviction for attempting to assist a Canadian woman's suicide. The Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled that there was sufficient evidence to convict William Melchert-Dinkel, 53, of assisting the 2005 suicide of Mark Drybrough, 32, of Coventry, England. It said there wasn't enough evidence to convict the ex-nurse of the lesser offense of attempting to assist the 2008 suicide of Nadia Kajouji, 18, of Brampton, Ontario.

Authorities have said that

Melchert-Dinkel was obsessed with suicide and hanging, and that he sought out potential victims online, posing as a female nurse and feigning compassion.

The appeals court said Melchert-Dinkel gave Drybrough detailed instructions on how to hang himself.

But it said he didn't give specific instructions to Kajouji when he recommended that she hang herself. She jumped from a bridge into a frozen river in Ottawa, where she was going to college.

The case has been the subject of a long legal fight that narrowed Minnesota's law against assisting suicides. □

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## American Living:

# New England lobstermen still fishing thanks to mild winter



A lobster boat heads out to sea at sunrise, off Kennebunkport, Maine. Some of the state's lobstermen are staying out on the water later in the year because of the warm winter weather. The result is that lobster is easy to come by at the market.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty)

**PATRICK WHITTLE**  
**Associated Press**

**PORTLAND, Maine (AP)** — Many New England lobstermen are still fishing deep into December this year because of unseasonably warm weather and an abundance of the critters, and Maine's beloved scallops are a little harder to come by as a result.

The extra fishing hasn't done much to change the price of lobsters, which are selling in the range of \$8 to \$10 per pound in Maine, typical for this time of year, when Canada is also hauling in large catches. But some lobstermen in Maine, the biggest lobster-producing state, also fish for scallops and haven't

made the transition to the winter scalloping season because lobster fishing is still strong. As a result, Maine scallops — which usually cost about \$20 per pound — have been slightly more expensive, sometimes selling in the \$25-per-pound range, and some retailers are low on supply. Alex Todd, a

Portland scallop and lobster fisherman, said he expects scallop fishing in the southern part of the state to pick up in mid-January. Supply from scallop-rich Cobscook Bay is helping feed demand for now, he said.

"There's not very many being landed right here in Casco Bay," said Todd, who is still fishing for lobsters. Lobster fishing off New England peaks in the summer, and the fleet typically reduces to a few hardy souls when the cold months arrive. But more boats than usual are still on the water this year because conditions remain good, fishermen and dealers said. Temperatures were expected to remain above average in much of New England on Monday.

Rockland, Maine, lobster dealer Jamie Steeves said there has been no trouble selling the extra catch, and he suspects some will end up on tables for holiday celebrations.

"Everyone's doing well right now. There's a lot of bugs around," Steeves said, using a colloquial term for

lobsters. "The weather has been good. It absolutely has affected the industry by letting people get out more."

The warm winter comes amid several consecutive strong seasons for New England lobstering. Lobster catches have topped 100 million pounds per year for six straight years after never previously reaching that mark, according to federal statistics that go back to 1950.

David Cousens, president of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, said the extra catch is nice, but this winter's warm waters are also troubling because they mean lobsters are more susceptible to disease. He said the water temperature in the Gulf of Maine is hovering around 47 degrees, a few degrees higher than typical for this time of year.

"It's not good that the ocean's not cooling down. We need it to cool down," Cousens said. "If they don't take their long winter's nap, they're more susceptible to shell disease." □

## Company to hold meeting on decade-old oil leak in Gulf

**MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)** — The company responsible for a decade-old oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico will hold a public meeting next month to disclose details of its efforts to stop chronic slicks from forming off Louisiana's coast. The Jan. 20 forum in Baton Rouge was a requirement of Taylor Energy Co.'s court settlement in September with environmental groups, which accused the company of withholding infor-

mation about the leak and its efforts to end it. In 2004, waves whipped up by Hurricane Ivan triggered an underwater mudslide that toppled a Taylor Energy-owned platform and buried a cluster of its oil wells under mounds of sediment. Oil is still leaking at the site more than 11 years later, with slicks often stretching for miles. Federal regulators estimate the leak could last a century or more if left unchecked. An Associated Press investigation in April revealed

evidence that the leak is worse than the company, or government, have publicly reported during their secretive response. Presented with AP's findings, the Coast Guard provided a new leak estimate that is about 20 times greater than one touted by the company in a court filing earlier this year. Environmental groups led by the New York-based Waterkeeper Alliance sued Taylor Energy in 2012, accusing the company of withholding information

from the public about the leak's extent and potential impact on the Gulf's ecosystem. In May, a federal magistrate rejected the company's bid to preserve the confidentiality of numerous emails and reports about its work. But those documents haven't been made public yet. The September settlement that resolved the Waterkeeper Alliance's federal lawsuit called for the company to donate \$300,000 to a Louisiana marine research consortium and pay

an additional \$100,000 to fund an environmental research project. Taylor Energy recently posted an agenda for next month's daylong meeting on Louisiana State University's campus. On a website, the company also posted documents summarizing the presentations planned for the forum. Taylor Energy President William Pecue, the company's sole remaining full-time employee, is scheduled to make most of the presentations at the meeting. □

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## US Financial Front:

# Oil slump weighing on housing markets in Texas, North Dakota



In this May, 2015 photo, more than 30 oil drilling rigs are idle in a Helmerich & Payne, Inc. yard along Groening Street in Odessa, Texas, as rig counts drop in the Permian Basin.  
(Courtney Sacco/Odessa American/AP)

**ALEX VEIGA**  
AP Business Writer

There's a dark side to those delightfully low gas prices: Housing markets are slumping in communities that were recently flush from the U.S. shale oil fracking boom.

Home sales are down sharply this year in North Dakota and the West Texas cities of Midland and Odessa. Home sales have also slowed in El Paso, and, more recently, in Houston. The drilling boom, driven by high oil prices and new discoveries, brought tens of thousands of workers to oil fields in several states to run drilling rigs and supply the equipment and services needed to produce crude. Then the price of oil tanked, plummeting by half in late 2014 and reaching levels this year not seen since the financial crisis. Oil companies abandoned drilling projects and began laying off workers.

"When your economic base is undergoing that kind of pressure, your lo-

cal market is going to feel it," said Jim Gaines, chief economist at the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University.

Despite the softer sales, home prices have mostly held up in oil-reliant markets, at least so far.

Still, housing is expected to slow further in Texas and North Dakota next year unless the price of oil rebounds strongly, something oil companies, government energy analysts and Wall Street traders do not expect to happen soon.

The U.S. oil boom kicked off toward the end of the last decade as drillers learned to improve the extraction process known as fracking to unlock oil trapped in underground shale rock formations.

The Permian basin in West Texas and the Bakken Formation in western North Dakota quickly became magnets for workers, including many laborers who had been struggling to find work in the home construction industry after the hous-

ing bubble bust.

Workers stuffed hotels, sending room rates soaring, as they looked for housing. Others piled into sprawling, hastily-erected housing complexes called man camps. "It was not unusual to have a house on the market and, in less than a week, have multiple offers. It was a crazy market," said Scott Kesner, chairman of the Texas Association of Realtors. That frenzy began to dissipate early in 2015 as the slump in crude dragged on, and it has since deepened. Crude is trading near \$38 a barrel, a level not seen since the depths of the recession in 2009. The energy and mining sector has shed 122,300

jobs this year, according to Labor Department data.

In Texas, no stranger to oil-related housing booms and busts, the impact so far has been most pronounced in Odessa and Midland, cities at the doorstep of the Permian, a key shale oil region that extends from West Texas into New Mexico. Home sales in Odessa fell 10.6 percent through October this year from a year earlier, according to the most recent information from housing data firm RealtyTrac. Sales declined 8 percent over the same period in nearby Midland.

"They are going to bear the brunt," said Gaines. "They're right there at the point of the spear in the en-

ergy sector."

Still, the two cities continue to have a seller-friendly four-month supply of homes for sale. That's more than the two months they had before the oil slump, but still representative of a tight market for homes. A six-month supply of homes is what economists consider a balanced market.

In El Paso home sales have also declined. They're down 8.8 percent in the January-September period from a year earlier.

In Houston, sales began to decline in October, and the median home price has fallen for two months in a row following 41 consecutive months of price increases. □

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# Wounded fighters, civilians evacuated from war-torn Syria

**HASSAN AMMAR  
BASSEM MROUE**  
**Associated Press**

**MASNAA, Lebanon (AP)** —

More than 100 insurgents and their families crossed from Syria into Lebanon in buses and ambulances on Monday as part of a U.N.-backed truce reached with the government that saw a separate group of Syrians from two insurgent-besieged Shiite villages crossed into Turkey.

The fighters and their families will now be flown to Turkey, while the villagers, who were also evacuated on buses and ambulances, will be transported via Lebanon to government-held parts of Syria in a coordinated process, according to an activist group and media reports.

The truce deal reached in September, which provides for the transfer of thousands of Shiite and Sunni civilians and fighters, is one of a number of ground-level deals to end fighting in parts of Syria. Earlier this month, scores of fighters and their families began leaving a rebel-



**Convoys carrying wounded Syrian opposition fighters leave the Lebanese border crossing point of Masnaa, Monday, Dec. 28, 2015. Syrian opposition fighters, some on wheelchairs, stretchers or crutches left the Syrian mountain resort of Zabadani toward the Lebanon border, where they will be flown to Turkey.**  
(AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

held neighborhood in the central city of Homs after years of combat.

"The process is ongoing at a good pace," Yacoub El Hillo, the U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Syria, told the Lebanon-based Al-Mayadeen channel shortly after the buses

and ambulances arrived at the Syrian side on the border with Lebanon.

He said the next step is to bring humanitarian assistance in the coming days to besieged areas that are included in this agreement. A Turkish plane that landed in Beirut on Monday after-

noon will be used to transfer the rebels and their families to Turkey, which is one of the main allies of insurgents battling to overthrow Syrian President Bashar Assad. The nearly five-year conflict has claimed over 250,000 lives

and generated more than 4 million refugees.

Airport officials said the plane will return to Turkey while another plane takes the Shiite villagers from Turkey to Lebanon later on Monday. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the operation.

The deal has raised concerns about forced demographic change in Syria, a Sunni-majority country with Christian and other minorities. Assad's family and other top officials hail from the Alawite minority, an offshoot of Shiite Islam, and the government is allied with Shiite-majority Iran and the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah. The Sunni-led opposition has accused Assad and his allies of trying to clear Sunnis out of government-held areas. The fighters who were evacuated from the Syrian town of Zabadani are Sunni Muslims, while those coming from the northern villages of Foua and Kfarya are Shiites. □

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## Watchdog: Israel planning new settler homes in strategic area

**JOSEF FEDERMAN**  
**Associated Press**

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — An Israeli anti-settlement watchdog group on Monday said the government has quietly worked on plans to build more than 8,000 homes in a strategic section of the West Bank near Jerusalem. Peace Now said the homes are among more than 55,000 housing units at various stages of planning by Israel's Housing Ministry. It said it had obtained the data after a two-year legal battle in response to a freedom of information request.

In a report, the group said the 8,372 units are envisioned for the strategic area known as E1. The Palestinians strongly object to settlement of the area, saying it would separate a future Palestinian state in the West Bank from east Jerusalem, their hoped-for capital, and drive a wedge between the northern and

southern flanks of the West Bank.

"For these reasons, whenever an Israeli leader tries to promote the plans in E1, the international community strongly condemns them," the report said.

The plans are in the earliest stages, and no actual construction has been approved. In 2013, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu froze E1 development plans following heavy international criticism.

The Housing Ministry said the plans were drawn up in 2012-13, and last year, it had paid off outstanding contracts with design teams. "During 2015 there were no activities whatsoever on site E1," it said. "At no time did the office proceed with housing plans on said site." The Palestinians claim the West Bank and east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, for an independent state. □



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## Poland's president signs contested constitutional court law

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)** — Poland's President Andrzej Duda on Monday approved controversial legislation that regulates the Constitutional Tribunal, the nation's highest court, and appealed for "truth" in debates that are also heard abroad. Some European Union leaders have expressed alarm at the fast-paced legislative changes taken by the new conservative

government. The opposition, which now controls the court, claims that Poland's democracy is threatened because the court will lose its power to check the government's actions. It has led tens of thousands of people in street protests in past weeks. Simultaneous pro-government rallies were also held. Duda said he believes the legislation, which came into effect Monday, will en-

hance the court's position and authority as it requires a greater number of judges than before to agree on verdicts and a larger majority for key issues. Duda stressed it will help the government push ahead with promised reforms of higher tax exemptions, bonuses for large families and lower retirement age. He expressed hope that the adoption of the regulations will help put an end to the

heated debates surrounding the court, whose job it is to examine contested legislation to ensure it does not violate the constitution. "A higher majority guarantees that these lawyers will be reaching agreement to a higher degree," Duda said in a statement at the Presidential Palace. Anticipating new argument, he appealed for "truth and no manipulation" in the debate be-

cause "words said here are also heard abroad." "We should remember that every word is heard not only in Poland, but because Poland is one of the largest EU countries, the words uttered here are also heard abroad," Duda said. "So I ask for truth and no manipulation, I ask for facts to be presented the way they are, also the facts that have legal value." □

## Spain's Podemos rules out help for PM Rajoy to govern

**ALAN CLENDENNING**  
Associated Press

**MADRID (AP)** — The leader of Spain's leftist Podemos party told Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy he won't offer any support for a new government formed by Rajoy's party, which won the most votes in the Dec. 20 national election but failed to get a parliamentary majority. Pablo Iglesias said after meeting with Rajoy that his party won't agree to become part of a coalition led by Rajoy's Popular Party and would not indirectly support Rajoy by abstaining during a parliamentary leadership vote. Rajoy then met with Albert Rivera of the business-

friendly Ciudadanos party as part of his attempt to win support for the Popular Party's effort to govern as a minority party or in a coalition. Rajoy's options are limited and the main opposition Socialist Party has already ruled out helping him. Spain has never had a "grand coalition" with power shared by the Popular and Socialist parties. Rivera reiterated Ciudadanos' position that it won't support Rajoy or his party but would abstain in a leadership vote which would benefit Rajoy in forming a minority government if he can get other parties to follow suit. Socialist Party leader Pedro



Spain's PM Mariano Rajoy, right, talks to Podemos party leader Pablo Iglesias during a meeting in Madrid. Rajoy met with the leaders of two upstart parties on Monday Dec. 28, 2015 following an election that gave Rajoy's party the most votes but left it far short of a parliamentary majority.

(AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

Sanchez on Monday said his party would talk with others to try to form a government if Rajoy and the Popular Party fail.

But Sanchez said the Socialists would not team up with Podemos unless it drops a demand to allow the northeastern region of

Catalonia to hold a secession referendum. The Popular Party won 123 seats in the 350-member lower house of parliament — down from the 186 it got in 2011. The Socialists won 90 seats, followed by Podemos and allies with 69 and Ciudadanos with 40. Spain's King Felipe VI next month will hold talks with the leaders of each party that won seats in Parliament and nominate one for government. But the nominated party leader must then win the leadership vote of confidence in Parliament to take office. If there is still deadlock after two months, the monarch would call a new election. □

## Croatia's parliament elects new speaker ending deadlock

**ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)** — Croatia's parliament chose a speaker on Monday, ending weeks of political deadlock after last month's inconclusive general election. Lawmakers elected Zeljko Reiner of the conservative Croatian Democratic Union with 88 votes in favor,

one against and 62 abstentions. The country's Nov. 8 election was inconclusive, with opposition right-wing and ruling left-wing coalitions winning 59 and 56 seats respectively. The newly formed Most party, which became kingmaker after winning 19

seats, decided after weeks of negotiations with both blocs to form a new government with the conservatives, ending a four-year rule of the center-left coalition. The election of the speaker paves the way for the prime minister designate proposed by the conserva-

tives, the little-known Canada-educated financial expert Tihomir Oreskovic, to form a new government. "I'm a patriot and it is an honor for me to be able to return to Croatia and help my people," Oreskovic said, adding that he hopes to form the government within the next 30 days.

Outgoing Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic, who was close to a deal with Most (Bridge in English) during the negotiations, was more pessimistic. "Considering democracy, Croatia has never been at such a low point," Milanovic told reporters during in the parliament session. □



# South Korea, Japan reach landmark deal on WWII sex slaves



South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se, right, shakes hands with his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida after their joint press conference at Foreign Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, Monday, Dec. 28, 2015.

(AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

**HYUNG-JIN KIM  
FOSTER KLUG  
Associated Press**

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — An apology from Japan's prime minister and a pledge of more than \$8 million sealed a breakthrough deal Monday in a decades-long impasse with South Korea over Korean women forced into Japanese military-run brothels during World War II. The accord, which aims to resolve the emotional core of South Korea's grievanc-

es with its former colonial overlord, could begin to reverse decades of animosity and mistrust between the two thriving democracies, trade partners and staunch U.S. allies. It represents a shift for Tokyo's conservative government and a new willingness to compromise by previously wary Seoul.

A statement by both countries' foreign ministers said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "expresses anew his most sincere apologies and re-

morse to all the women who underwent immeasurable and painful experiences and suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women," the euphemistic name given the women. Historians say tens of thousands of women from around Asia, many of them Korean, were sent to front-line military brothels to provide sex to Japanese soldiers. It wasn't immediately clear if Abe would be issuing a

separate written statement or if it would be directly delivered to the 46 surviving former Korean sex slaves, now in their 80s and 90s.

The language mirrored past expressions of remorse by other prime ministers, although it was seen by some in Seoul as an improvement on previous comments by Abe's hawkish government, which has been accused of whitewashing wartime atrocities. Another deciding factor was that the 1 billion yen (\$8.3 million) — to create a foundation to help provide support for the victims — came from the government, not private sources, something Tokyo has resisted in the past.

South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se said Seoul considers the agreement "final and irreversible," as long as Japan faithfully follows through with its promises.

Later Monday, Abe called South Korean President Park Geun-hye and reiterated his apology. He said Tokyo would implement the deal and called the issue settled irreversibly. Park said she hoped the two countries will build mu-

tual trust and open a new era in ties based on the agreement. After phoning Park, Abe told reporters that the agreement was based on his commitment to stop future generations from having to repeatedly apologize.

"Japan and South Korea are now entering a new era," Abe said. "We should not drag this problem into the next generation."

Park issued a separate statement saying the deal was the result of her government's best efforts to resolve the sex slave issue, given its urgency. "Most of victims are at an advanced age and nine died this year alone," she said.

"I hope the mental pains of the elderly comfort women will be eased," Park said.

The initial reaction of former sex slaves was mixed. One woman said she would follow the government's lead, while another vowed to ignore the accord because Tokyo didn't consider the money to be formal compensation.

"Isn't it natural to make legal compensation if they commit a crime?" said Lee Yong-su, 88, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency.

Some in Seoul saw the deal, while not perfect, as an important step forward. "If we brushed aside this deal, the comfort women issue would remain unresolved forever," said Lee Won Deog, director of Institute of Japanese Studies at Seoul's Kookmin University. "Elderly women would die one by one; South Korea and Japan would engage in history wars and find it harder to improve ties." □

## China: new restrictions to come on terrorism reporting

**Associated Press**

**BEIJING (AP)** — China said Monday it would impose new restrictions on media reports about domestic terrorism, as it continued to deride a French journalist being forced to leave the country for questioning Beijing's claims about the terrorist threat it faces. The official Xinhua News

Agency said the restrictions are mandated under an anti-terrorism law passed over the weekend, but gave few details. "The various restrictions intend to prevent copy-cat crimes, protect front-line anti-terror workers and keep society from the harm of hearsay," Xinhua said. "It is for the common good that foreign

media outlets in China as well as domestic media organizations comply with these regulations and make their due contribution to the global fight against terror." The new law contains a clause saying that news organizations should aid in the propaganda struggle against terrorism, as well as some general restrictions

on what can be reported. "No institutions or individuals may fabricate or disseminate information on forged terrorist incidents, report on or disseminate details of terrorist activities that might lead to imitation, nor publish scenes of cruelty or inhumanity about terrorist activities," the law says. □

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# Floods force thousands into shelters in South America



A man rows his boat through a flooded street in Concordia, Argentina, Monday, Dec. 28, 2015. Tens of thousands of people in several South American countries are spending the holidays in shelters after massive flooding forced them from their homes. (AP Photo/Natasha Pisarenko)

**NATACHA PISARENKO**  
**PETER PRENGAMAN**  
**Associated Press**  
**CONCORDIA, Argentina**  
(AP) — Massive, widespread flooding forced tens of thousands of people in South America to take refuge in shelters on Monday, as they endured heat, bugs and dirty running water because of contaminated sewer lines. The floods were caused by heavy rains and bulging rivers over the last several days and come at the beginning of the Southern Hemisphere's summer months. That means evac-

uees were also dealing with heat, humidity, mosquitoes and snakes that thrive in swamp-like conditions. Concordia, about 264 miles (425 kilometers) north of Buenos Aires, was among places that were particularly hard hit. Some houses had water nearly up to the roofs, and people made their way around town in canoes. "The water (from sinks) is contaminated and bugs are everywhere," said Josefina Monson, a 33-year-old who has been in the shelter with her husband and young daughters since

Christmas Eve. "I'm not sure when we'll be able to go home." It was unclear what thousands of people will find when they do return to their homes after the waters subside. At least 20,000 have been evacuated in Argentina. Neighboring Paraguay has been hardest hit, with 144,000 evacuated, mostly in areas bordering the Paraguay River. Several thousand have also been evacuated in Uruguay and southern Brazil. The floods have been responsible for at least eight deaths: six in Paraguay and two in Uruguay. Causes of death have ranged from

falling trees to electrocution. Over the weekend, both Argentine President Mauricio Macri and Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff toured affected areas and announced measures to help people recover and rebuild their homes. Meteorologists attribute the heavy rains to the El Nino weather phenomenon, which happens every few years when the Pacific Ocean warms up around the equator. While rains had subsided in many areas by Monday afternoon, more rain was expected over the next couple days. In Buenos Aires on Monday,

Vice President Gabriela Michetti called a meeting of several top officials to coordinate recovery efforts. Many criticized the previous government's response to heavy flooding in the Buenos Aires province in August, which also forced tens of thousands to evacuate and became a flash-point ahead of presidential elections. "I can only get within two blocks of my house," said Alejandra Peritas, a 43-year-old in Concordia who took her two children to a shelter. "I can only see the roof. The rest is covered in water." □

## Venezuela chopper crashes in Colombia

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)** — A Venezuelan military helicopter has crashed in Colombia and the pilot and co-pilot are injured. The Bell helicopter belonging to Venezuela's National Guard was inspecting the border on Monday when it fell about 10 meters (yards) to the ground. It crash landed on the Colombian side of the La Guajira peninsula on South America's northernmost tip. It's unclear what caused the crash but Colombian Defense Minister Luis Carlos

Villegas said it posed no security threat. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in August closed all major crossings along the 2,200-kilometer (1,400) mile border and deported scores of Colombians to stamp out what he considers to be large-scale smuggling. Tensions remain high between the countries. The two crew members were rescued by local residents and escorted to Venezuela for medical attention. □

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## Puerto Rico policeman fatally shoots 3 officers after fight

**DANICA COTO**  
**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — A Puerto Rico policeman fatally shot two high-ranking officers and a policewoman on Monday following an argument and hostage taking at work that temporarily shut down the station in the U.S. territory's

second largest city, authorities said. The suspect was immediately placed under arrest.

The suspect, Guarionex Candelario, held a female lieutenant, a male commander and a policewoman hostage in an office before he killed them, police spokeswoman Mayra

Ayala told The Associated Press.

She said authorities were about to start negotiations with the 50-year-old suspect when the victims were killed. She said police did not yet have information on a motive.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla told reporters that the

suspect was injured during the shooting and remains hospitalized. Padilla declined to say what kind of injuries the officer received and how they were inflicted.

"This took us completely by surprise," Col. Hector Agosto said in a quiet voice at a press conference while

still wearing a shirt stained with blood, explaining that he tried to help the victims. "We are a family. I am trying to stay strong."

"This is a very tragic situation that appalls us all especially because it occurred during the holidays," said police spokesman Axel Valencia. □

## Unearthing of Rio slave port sparks debate over black space

**JENNY BARCHFIELD**  
**Associated Press**

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — The first few times American landscape architect Sara Zewde visited Rio de Janeiro's Valongo Wharf, she struggled to comprehend the recently unearthed remnants of what was once among the biggest slave ports in the world.

Excavated starting in 2011, the site is largely inscrutable, even to the trained eye: The spot where more than a half million enslaved African men and women debarked after harrowing journeys across the Atlantic is an open archaeological pit containing a jumble of paving stones.

A few paragraphs-long cardboard signs are the sole indication of the historical significance of the site, which experts hail as one-of-a-kind in the Americas.



**American landscape architect Sara Zewde poses for a photo at the "Cais do Valongo" or "Valongo wharf," in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Zewde was in Rio working on transportation-related projects in between earning master's degrees at MIT and Harvard and was bowled over by the discovery of the site.**

(AP Photo/Silvia Izquierdo)

The unearthing of Valongo, which was excavated as part of a multibillion-dollar project aimed at bringing bigbusiness to Rio's long derelict port neighborhood, has sparked heated discussions about how black

heritage sites are handled in Brazil. While the developers of the "Porto Maravilha" ("Marvelous Port") project insist they've done more than enough by excavating the site, black activists say more is needed to give

the space its due.

"The fact is that in Brazil sites dealing with African heritage are just less important," said Elisa Larkin Nascimento, who heads Rio's Ipeafro Afro-Brazilian Studies and Research Institute. "It's a very neat statement of Brazilian racism. They are not interested in the history of Africans in Brazil."

Brazilians have long been loath to grapple with the shadow of slavery in a country that took nearly half of the more than 10.5 million Africans shipped to the Americas, compared with roughly 645,000 taken to the United States.

Slavery was only outlawed here in 1888 — more than two decades later than in the U.S.

Slavery's legacy still casts a pall over Brazil, with its dark-skinned majority at the bottom of the economic and

social pyramid, yet many Brazilians view their country as free from prejudice and institutionalized racism. There has yet to be a civil rights movement, and discussions about slavery only began to creep into public discourse in recent years.

The tortured history of Valongo encapsulates "Brazil's unofficial policy of forgetting" about slavery, said Washington Fajardo, who heads Rio's municipal cultural heritage agency.

Built in 1811 on what was then the outskirts of town to replace a more central slave port, Valongo was literally buried — first beneath the paving stones of the stately wharf reconstructed to receive the bride of Brazil's Portuguese emperor in 1843 and then over the following century and a half beneath layer after layer of pavement. □

## Puerto Rico governor says US changing view on status

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)**

— Puerto Rico Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla has denounced what he is calling a change in the U.S. government's historic position on the island's political status. In a letter to U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, portions of which were released Sunday by the

governor's office, Garcia Padilla said the new stance contradicts the U.S. past position that the autonomy Puerto Rico gained through the approval of its 1952 constitution should remove it from the U.N.'s list of non-self-governing territories. "I believe it is my moral obligation to defend and to

clarify the historic record, not only before us, but before the courts, the United States and the international community," Garcia Padilla wrote. Last week U.S. Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli filed a friend of the court brief arguing that Puerto Rico remains a territory under the powers of

the U.S. Congress despite the increased autonomy its constitution granted.

"Puerto Rico's transition to local self-government was a significant development in its relationship to the United States, and it has yielded many benefits for Puerto Rico and the United States in a relationship of

mutual respect. Congress has evinced no intention to revoke the local autonomy it has vested in the government of Puerto Rico. But as a constitutional matter, Puerto Rico remains a territory subject to Congress's authority under the Territory Clause," Verrilli stated in the brief. □





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from disposable plastic and styrofoam cups." Aruba Rocks recently opened their first official store in Paseo Herencia mall where all their designed items are displayed. When you buy an Aruba Rocks product you help protect Aruba's valuable natural resources and maintain the attractiveness of Aruba's beaches. This will allow all who consider Aruba their home-away-from-home to contribute to the protection of the island's environment in a really effortless manner. Aruba Rocks have found a way to express their passion for their island and design

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# Playa Linda Celebrates Year-End with 'Twist of Royal Blue'



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and the resort bestowing its 'Best of the Year' honors. General Manager Peter van Grinsven, together with Human Resources' Milda Ras, brought the event to its highpoint in announcing Jarion Croes, from Front Office, as the Rookie of the Year, Alda Orman, from Housekeeping, as Employ-

ee of the Year and Yvette Tromp, from Members Relations, as Manager of the Year. Accolades also went to Nidia Boekhoudt, from Accounting, as the resort's Star Award winner. The annual year-end celebration was complete with dinner and dancing as well as particularly high spirits.

After a year in which the resort underwent a major renovation to its public areas, including its main pool -- all the while maintaining consistently high ratings -- every single department received recognition this year as Department of the Year. For the high level of teamwork and unwavering hospitality offered guests, even under challenging conditions, each depart-



ment will receive a special gift by the time the resort lights its pagara to welcome in 2016. As one of the island's first, and still leading, time-shares, Playa Linda prides itself on providing an ex-

ceptional vacation experience with true Aruban hospitality. The year-end party is just one of the ways in which the resort thanks its employees for their invaluable contributions to this goal. □

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## Serena's Open Loss Tops a Year of Stunning Upsets

In this June 4, 2015 photo, Serena Williams returns a shot at the French Open at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris. Williams' loss at the U.S. Open, ending her chance at a Grand Slam in 2015, will surely go down as one of the biggest upsets in any sport, which was the only way to stand apart in 2015.

(AP Photo/Francois Mori)

### PAUL NEWBERRY AP National Writer

Serena Williams had done all the heavy lifting, or so it seemed.

She conquered the grass of Wimbledon, the red clay of Roland Garros, the hard courts of the Australian Open.

All that was left for tennis' first Grand Slam since 1988 was a victory in the U.S. Open, surely a mere formality when Williams got to the semifinals with a 43rd-ranked Italian standing in her way.

At 33, Williams was poised to put a remarkable caper on a brilliant career. Roberta Vinci had other ideas.

"Every so often," Vinci said, "a miracle happens."

For Williams, it was a nightmare. After cruising through the first set 6-2, she finally seemed to feel the weight of history. Her legs got sluggish, her shots spraying all over the court. Vinci evened the match 6-4, and took the decisive third set by the same score.

"I saw she was nervous," Vinci said, "and that helped me."

Williams' loss will surely go down as one of the biggest upsets in any sport, which was the only way to stand apart in 2015.

Several of these jaw-droppers would've been at the top of the list just about any

other year:

**DOWN GOES ROUSEY!** Ronda Rousey was supposed to be invincible. She won her first 12 mixed martial arts fights — eight of them in less than a minute — before stepping into the cage against Holly Holm in Melbourne, Australia. Rowdy Ronda finally met her match Down Under, when Holm finished her off with a devastating kick to the head. "I'll be back," Rousey vowed.

**PERFECT SEASON CRUMBLES:** With a roster full of NBA-quality underclassmen, Kentucky was 38-0 and needed two wins to

become the first undefeated men's hoops team in nearly four decades. Turns out, the Wildcats weren't perfect after all.

Hard-nosed Wisconsin took down John Calipari's squad 71-64 at the Final Four. "The season was a waste," Kentucky's Tyler Ulis said.

**ONE SHOT TOO MANY:** Jordan Spieth won the first two major championships on the golfing calendar, and coming down the stretch of the British Open it looked as though he'd make it three in a row. The young Texan shared the lead with two holes to go after sinking a 50-foot birdie putt. But he missed an 8-footer at

the 17th and slipped out of a playoff by a single shot, denied in his bid for the first modern Grand Slam. "We gave it a great effort," Spieth said.

**FATHER AND SON:** We'll all remember Kentucky's loss, but perhaps the most compelling image from the NCAA tournament was injured Georgia State coach Ron Hunter tumbling off his stool after his son R.J. hit a 3-pointer to cap an improbable upset by the 14th-seeded Panthers over No. 3 Baylor.

And let's not forget UAB prevailing against Iowa State in another 14-beats-3 shocker. □



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## NFL Roundup:

# Cardinals clinch playoff bye with win against Packers



Arizona Cardinals wide receiver John Brown (12) scores a touchdown as Green Bay Packers strong safety Morgan Burnett (42) defends during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz. The Cardinals beat the Packers 38-8.

(AP Photo/Rick Scuteri)

**GLENDAL, Arizona (AP)** — Arizona clinched a bye in the first round of the NFL playoffs by beating Green Bay 38-8 on Sunday, sacking Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers eight times and returning two of his fumbles for touchdowns. On the penultimate Sunday of the season, other key results saw Atlanta beat Carolina to inflict a first loss of the season on the Panthers, while the New York Jets kept their playoff hopes alive with an overtime win against New England. Arizona quarterback Carson Palmer threw for 257 yards and two touchdowns for Arizona (13-2), while Cory Redding rambled in from 36 yards with one of the fumbles for a score and

Jeraud Powers took the other five yards for a TD. In all, the Packers were sacked nine times in their most one-sided loss of the season. Green Bay is home against Minnesota in its regular-season finale next Sunday, with the NFC North title at stake. Both teams have 10-5 records. Carolina's bid for an undefeated season ended when Julio Jones' dramatic 70-yard touchdown reception powered Atlanta to a 20-13 victory. Carolina (14-1) had a chance to force overtime when it got the ball with 90 seconds left and no timeouts remaining. Cam Newton completed a 19-yard pass on first down but

fumbled on the following play and Adrian Clayborn recovered the ball for the Falcons, wrapping up the win. Matt Ryan threw for 306 yards and one touchdown for the Falcons (8-7), and Devonta Freeman ran for 73 yards with a TD. New York's Eric Decker took a 6-yard touchdown catch on the first drive of overtime — after New England chose to kick off — to give the Jets a 26-20 win against the Patriots. A win next week at Buffalo will give the Jets a wildcard berth. New England (12-3) won the OT coin toss and surprisingly elected to give the ball to the Jets (10-5). New York used a 48-yard recep-

tion by Quincy Enunwa and a 20-yard pass to Brandon Marshall to move into scoring position. And then, Ryan Fitzpatrick hit Decker to seal the Jets fifth straight victory. Marshall had two TD catches and also became the first NFL player with 100 receptions in six seasons. Minnesota clinched a playoff berth with a 49-17 win against the New York Giants in frigid conditions. Adrian Peterson ran for 104 yards and a touchdown over three quarters, and Harrison Smith took one of New York quarterback Eli Manning's three interceptions into the end zone. Jerick McKinnon rushed for two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter, including a 68-yard romp through a disinterested defense with the temperature down to minus 12 degrees (11F). St. Louis' Todd Gurley scored on a 2-yard TD run with 10:34 left to give the Rams a 23-17 win at Seattle, ending the Seahawks' five-game winning streak. Gurley rushed for 85 yards on 19 carries, while Akeem Ayers returned a fumble 45 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter. Pittsburgh's playoff hopes suffered a major setback with a surprising 20-17 loss at Baltimore. Quarterback Ryan Mallet made his first appearance for the Ravens and completed 28 of 41 passes for 274 yards, including a touchdown and no interceptions. Pittsburgh's Ben Roethlis-

berger threw two interceptions and was sacked three times. The Steelers will need to win at Cleveland next week if they are to make the playoffs, and rely on other results going their way. Kansas City sealed its playoff place and recorded a team record-tying ninth straight win by beating Cleveland 17-13. Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith threw two touchdown passes, threw for 125 yards and ran for 54. Browns quarterback Johnny Manziel led the visitors to 10 straight points to get within four. He then took over at his 30-yard line with 1:52 left and no timeouts. The Browns picked up three first downs, and Manziel hit Darius Jennings on fourth-and-10 from the Chiefs 32. But time expired before he could get another snap off. Indianapolis kept a pulse in its faint playoff hopes with an 18-12 win at Miami, with third-string quarterback Charlie Whitehurst coming off the bench to lead the Colts to two touchdown drives. Chicago's Ka'Deem Carey caught a touchdown pass and the third-string running back also scored a touchdown on the run to help the Bears defeat Tampa Bay 26-21. Houston took a big step toward clinching the AFC South division by winning 34-6 at Nashville, with Brandon Weeden scoring his first career rushing touchdown and throwing for two more. □



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## NBA Capsules

# Stars steer Thunder to 122-112 win vs. Nuggets



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) goes up for a dunk as Denver Nuggets guard Gary Harris (14) watches during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015. Oklahoma City won 122-112.

(AP Photo/Alonzo Adams)

**OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)** — Russell Westbrook had 30 points, 12 assists and nine rebounds, and Oklahoma City rallied from an 11-point, second-half deficit to beat Denver. Kevin Durant recorded his eighth double-double of the season with 26 points and 10 assists for the Thunder, who have won 10 of their last 12 games but were coming off a Christmas Day loss at home to the Chicago Bulls. Oklahoma City shot a season-best 57.8 percent from the field. The Thunder trailed as late as the 8:13 mark of the fourth quarter before taking control with

an 11-2 run that included seven of Enes Kanter's 21 points. Kenneth Faried had 25 points and 11 points for the Nuggets, who have lost five of their last six games. Denver has lost six straight trips to Oklahoma City.

### GRIZZLIES 112, LAKERS 96

**MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)** — Mike Conley scored 19 points, Jeff Green added 17 and the Memphis Grizzlies led from start to finish for a 112-96 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday. Marc Gasol and Zach Randolph added 16 points apiece, while Courtney Lee

contributed 13. Conley and Gasol both connected on 7 of 11 shots and Randolph missed only one of his eight attempts as Memphis shot close to 60 percent for the game before finishing at 56 percent.

Kobe Bryant, playing in only the first and third quarters, scored 19 for the Lakers, with 14 in the opening quarter. Larry Nance Jr. had 17 points and 11 rebounds, while Jordan Clarkson scored 12 points and D'Angelo Russell fin-

ished with 10.

Memphis snapped a two-game skid, while Los Angeles lost its third straight and fifth in the last six.

### CELTICS 100, KNICKS 91

**BOSTON (AP)** — Isaiah Thomas had a pair of key baskets and finished with 21 points, Evan Turner scored 19 and Boston won its fourth straight. Jae Crowder scored 18 points and Kelly Olynyk added 11 points and nine rebounds for Boston. Thom-

as added eight rebounds and six assists.

Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 29 points despite shooting just 11 of 26. Kristaps Porzingis had 16 points and 12 rebounds. New York, which shot just 37.1 percent, lost its fourth straight. The Celtics opened an 88-78 lead on Turner's driving basket with 6:11 to play, but the Knicks cut it to 90-85 before Thomas had consecutive driving baskets to push the lead back to nine. □

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- Lobster Bisque & herbs croutons
- Assorted rolls & butter
- Active Station
- Roasted Turkey with herbs honey mustard gravy
- Cranberry sauce
- Honey cured smoked Ham with ginger & raisin sauce
- Hot Buffet
- Turmeric rice
- Basil vegetables
- Grilled Sierra fish with Champagne sauce
- Pan fried chicken breast with mushroom & thyme sauce
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## NHL Capsules:

# Checked: Stone scores twice; Senators beat Bruins 3-1

**OTTAWA, Ontario (AP)** — Goaltender Craig Anderson is showing he can handle a heavy workload. Mark Stone scored twice, Anderson stopped 38 shots and the Ottawa Senators beat the Boston Bruins 3-1 Sunday.

It was the 15th time this season that Anderson has faced 35 or more shots, and he's 11-2-2 in those games.

"For me the way the game was, I thought we played a solid game and we were in the right spots at the right time," Anderson said. "We allowed a lot of perimeter shots with some traffic, but guys did a great job blocking shots, boxing out and doing the little things that make a difference."

"The big part of the reason why we've got any success is because of the goaltending that we've had and he's a big part of it," Senators coach Dave Cameron added.

The two teams meet again Tuesday night in Boston.

## PANTHERS 3, BLUE JACKETS 2

**SUNRISE, Florida (AP)** — Aleksander Barkov had a pair of goals as the Florida Panthers took over the top spot in the Atlantic Division with a 3-2 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Sunday night.

Aaron Ekblad also scored a goal for the Panthers. Jonathan Huberdeau had two assists. Brandon Saad and Cam Atkinson scored for Columbus. Roberto Luongo made 15



Ottawa Senators' Mark Stone (61) checks Boston Bruins' Brad Marchand (63) during first period NHL hockey action in Ottawa on Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015.

(Fred Chartrand/The Canadian Press via AP)

saves for Florida. Columbus's Curtis McElhinney had 29 saves.

## MAPLE LEAFS 3, ISLANDERS 1

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Tyler Bozak and Michael Grabner scored 1:40 apart in the second period to lead the Maple Leafs to a victory over the Islanders. After going 1-7-2 in October, the Leafs are 12-7-5 in November and December. Toronto has recorded at least one point in seven of its last eight games (5-1-2). Overall, the Leafs are 13-14-7.

Jonathan Bernier stopped 25 shots and James van Riemsdyk added an empty net goal.

Thomas Greiss made 35 saves for New York, which has lost four of five.

Nikolay Kulemin scored New York's goal.

## STARS 3, BLUES 0

**DALLAS (AP)** — Kari Lehtonen made 22 saves in his 33rd career shutout, Jamie Benn scored his NHL-leading 23rd goal and the Stars beat the Blues. Benn and Patrick Sharp each had a power-play goal and an assist. Cody Eakin scored into an empty net with 1:32 remaining. Lehtonen improved his season record to 12-2-0. He is 13-6-2 in his career against the Blues.

## FLAMES 5, OILERS 3

**CALGARY, Alberta (AP)** — Red-hot Johnny Gaudreau scored twice and Calgary beat Edmonton for its franchise-record 11th straight

home win.

Since last losing at the Scotiabank Saddledome on Oct. 30, the Flames have dominated at home with Gaudreau leading the way. The 22-year-old has scored in eight of the 11 wins with 15 goals and 22 points over that span, including a hat trick in a 4-1 win over Winnipeg last Tuesday night. Mark Giordano also scored twice and Matt Stajan had a goal for the Flames. Karri Ramo stopped 28 shots. Benoit Pouliot scored twice and Teddy Purcell added the other for Edmonton. The Oilers are 1-4-1 since a six-game winning streak ended.

## HURRICANES 2, BLACK-HAWKS 1

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Jus-

tin Faulk and Victor Rask scored, backup Eddie Lack stopped 35 shots and the Hurricanes beat the Blackhawks.

Chicago's Brent Seabrook spoiled Lack's shutout bid with 3 seconds left and Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford on the bench for an extra attacker.

Lack wasn't consistently tested until the Blackhawks outshot Carolina 19-9 in the third period.

The Hurricanes' Jeff Skinner had two assists.

## DUCKS 4, FLYERS 2

**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)** — Corey Perry had the tying and go-ahead goals, Shawn Horcoff scored a short-handed goal and Ryan Getzlaf connected on a power play, leading the Ducks to their fifth straight win over the Flyers.

Defenseman Sami Vatanen had two assists and John Gibson made 24 saves in his first career game against the Flyers.

Jakub Voracek and Michael Raffl scored for the Flyers. Steve Mason stopped 33 shots in his fourth straight start.

## COYOTES 2, AVALANCHE 1, OT

**DENVER (AP)** — Mikkel Boedker scored at 4:17 of overtime and Anders Lindback stopped 38 shots, helping the Coyotes beat the Avalanche. Boedker corralled a loose puck at his own blue line and skated in all alone on Semyon Varlamov, lifting a shot over the stick of the Colorado goalie. □



## Ex-Globetrotters star 'clown prince' Meadowlark Lemon dies

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)** — Meadowlark Lemon, the "clown prince" of basketball's barnstorming Harlem Globetrotters, whose blend of hook shots and humor brought joy to millions of fans around the world, has died. He was 83.

Lemon's wife and daughter confirmed to the team that he died Sunday in Scottsdale, Arizona, Globetrotters spokesman Brett Meister said Monday. Meister did not know the cause of death.

Though skilled enough to play professionally, Lemon instead wanted to entertain, his dream of playing for the Globetrotters hatched after watching a newsreel of the all-black team at a cinema house when he was 11.

Lemon ended up becoming arguably the team's most popular player, a showman known as much for his confetti-in-the-water-bucket routine and slapstick comedy as his half-court hook shots and no-look, behind-the-back passes. A sign of his cross-over appeal, Lemon was inducted into both the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame and the International Clown Hall of Fame.

"My destiny was to make



**In this 2003 photo, Basketball Hall of Fame CEO John Doleva, left, presents a Hall of Fame jacket to inductee Meadowlark Lemon, of the Harlem Globetrotters, at the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. Lemon, known as the Globetrotters' "clown prince" of basketball, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015, in Scottsdale, Ariz. He was 83.**

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

people happy," Lemon said as he was inducted into the basketball hall as a contributor to the game in 2003.

Lemon played for the Globetrotters during the team's heyday from the mid-1950s to the late-1970s, delighting fans with his skills with a ball and a joke. Traveling by car, bus, train or plane nearly every night, Lemon covered nearly 4 million miles to play in over 100 countries and in front of popes and presidents, kings and queens. Known as the "Clown Prince of Basketball," he averaged

325 games per year during his prime, that luminous smile never dimming.

"Meadowlark was the most sensational, awesome, incredible basketball player I've ever seen," NBA great and former Globetrotter Wilt Chamberlain said shortly before his death in 1999. "People would say it would be Dr. J or even (Michael) Jordan. For me it would be Meadowlark Lemon."

Lemon spent 24 years with the Globetrotters, doing tours through the racially torn South in the 1950s until he left in 1979 to start his own team.

He was one of the most popular athletes in the world during the prime of his career, thanks to a unique blend of athleticism and showmanship.

Playing against the team's nightly foil, the Washington Generals, Lemon left fans in awe with an array of hook shots, no-look passes and the nifty moves he put on display during the Globetrotters' famous circle while "Sweet Georgia Brown" played over the loudspeaker. He also had a knack for sending the fans home with a smile every night, whether it was with his running commentary, putting confetti in a water bucket or pulling down the pants of an "unsuspecting" referee. "We played serious games too, against the Olympic teams and the College All-Stars," Lemon said. "But that didn't stop us from putting the comedy in there." Lemon became an icon in the 1970s, appearing in movies, including "The Fish That Saved Pittsburgh," numerous talk shows and even a stint in the cartoon "Scooby Doo," with Scatman Crothers doing his voice.

After leaving the Globetrotters, Lemon started his own team, The Bucketees,

and played on a variety of teams before rejoining the Globetrotters for a short tour in 1994.

Lemon spent the last years of his life trying to spread a message of faith through basketball. He became an ordained minister in 1986 and was a motivational speaker, touring the country to meet with children at basketball camps and youth prisons with his Scottsdale-based Meadowlark Lemon Ministries.

"I feel if I can touch a kid in youth prison, he won't go to the adult prison," Lemon said in 2003.

He never lost touch with his beloved sport. Lemon said he rose every day at 4 a.m. and, after prayers, headed for the gym to run sprints and practice shooting.

"I have to keep that hook shot working," he said.

Born in 1932, Meadow George Lemon III — he lengthened his name after joining the Globetrotters — didn't have money for a basketball when he was young, so he rigged up a makeshift hoop in his backyard in Wilmington, North Carolina. Using a coat hanger and onion sack for the basket, he made his first shot with an empty milk can. □

## Former outfielder Dave Henderson dies of heart attack at 57

**TIM BOOTH**  
**AP Sports Writer**

**SEATTLE (AP)** — Dave Henderson, the former major league outfielder who hit one of the most famous home runs in postseason history, died Sunday after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 57.

Henderson died early Sunday morning at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, according to a statement from the Mariners, one of five teams Henderson played for in his career. Henderson had a kidney transplant in late October.

Henderson was best known for his home run in the 1986 AL Championship Series for Boston. With the Red Sox one strike from elimination in Game 5, Henderson hit a two-run homer in the top of the ninth against the California Angels to send the series back to Boston. The Red Sox won Games 6 and 7 to advance to the World Series. But beyond his memorable playoff moment, Henderson was a reliable contributor to four teams that reached the World Series and played 14 seasons total in the majors.



**This 2009 photo shows former Boston Red Sox outfielder Dave Henderson walking onto the field to throw out the ceremonial first pitch before Game 3 of an American League baseball division series between the Boston Red Sox and Los Angeles Angels in Boston. Henderson, who hit one of the most famous home runs in postseason history, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015, after suffering a massive heart attack. He was 57.**

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

His greatest success came from 1988-91 with Oakland. During that four-year stretch, the A's went to the World Series three times.

Henderson played in 575 regular-season games during that span, hitting .275 with 84 homers, 123 doubles and 322 RBIs. Henderson was an All-Star in 1991. "Henderson was an instrumental part of the A's 1989 World Series championship club and an even more impactful member of the A's family and community," the A's said in a statement. "Hendu and his smile will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with his family."

Henderson began his career in Seattle as the first draft pick in the history of the Mariners franchise in 1977. He made his debut in 1981 and played parts of six

seasons with the Mariners. Henderson was traded to Boston during the 1986 season and later played for San Francisco and Kansas City.

"He was a devoted father to his two sons and always willing to help someone in need," Mariners President Kevin Mather said in a statement.

After his playing career ended, Henderson spent time as a broadcaster for the Mariners and ran fantasy camps for A's and Mariners fans. He also raised funds to support research of Angelman Syndrome, a genetic disorder that affected his son Chase.

Henderson was born July 21, 1958, in Merced, California. He is survived by sons Chase and Trent, wife Nancy and his first wife, Lori. □

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**Extra Time:**

# Soccer's dark year: From bribery arrests to suicide attacks

**ROB HARRIS**  
**AP Sports Writer**

**LONDON (AP)** — Dawn had just broken in Zurich when a man was spotted being dragged out of an opulent hotel's side entrance. Raising a single white sheet, hotel staff made an inadequate attempt to shield the guest being forced to check out early after being arrested in his bedroom. Eduardo Li was in clear view on the quiet side street as he was bundled into an unmarked police car, one of seven FIFA officials arrested as Swiss police swooped on the Baur au Lac hotel at the behest of American authorities. Years of investigations into soccer corruption burst into public view on the morning of May 27 as the so-called "World Cup of fraud" was exposed and FIFA would be coerced into cleaning up its act.

Li, the Costa Rican federation president who was in Zurich expecting to join FIFA's elite executive committee, was a lesser-known target of the U.S. case. But his arrest, which was captured on video by The Associated Press was the most visible.

By the end of 2015, four FIFA vice presidents had been indicted in the United States, including two swept up in a second wave of arrests in December after being chosen to replace those from the Americas indicted in May.



**Suspended FIFA President Sepp Blatter arrives prior to his press conference to respond to the FIFA ethics committee's verdict, at former FIFA's headquarters Hotel Sonnenberg in Zurich, Switzerland. (Patrick B. Kraemer/Keystone via AP)**

A fifth VP, Michel Platini, was banished by FIFA from soccer until 2023 along with Sepp Blatter — the man he was expected to succeed as president — after their dealings became the subject of a Swiss criminal case.

After 40 years at FIFA, 17 as president, the reign of the seemingly immovable Blatter ended in disgrace in 2015. Few lamented his downfall.

The 79-year-old Blatter did not see it coming in February when he beamed: "Now you see why I am

happy" as he relaxed in a Northern Ireland hotel accompanied by a girlfriend almost 30 years his junior at a FIFA meeting.

And Blatter managed to brush off the anger that greeted revelations about the scale of bribery and kickbacks — corruption that mostly occurred within confederations rather than involving FIFA HQ in Zurich — to be voted in for a fifth term by federations on May 29.

Blatter subjected himself to a bruising encounter with the media the next day, a

Saturday morning when he was asked whether some of the accusations were indicative of his "incompetence or intentional negligence."

Blatter was defiant, vowing to see out his four-year term. The bravado quickly evaporated.

"Then came the different information from the U.S. with this and that," Blatter aide Walter Gagg told the AP.

After being warned in meetings with associates that he could be the next FIFA executive in the pros-

ecutors' sights, Blatter stunned the world on Tuesday June 2 by announcing plans to resign, accepting he lacked the game's backing.

Blatter hoped to hand over power in February, but the Swiss attorney general intervened by raiding FIFA's HQ in September and questioning the president. Years of suspicions about Blatter's integrity were confirmed when he was banished by FIFA's ethics judge for unethical conduct over a financial transaction with Platini, who received the same eight-year ban from soccer.

The Swiss investigation — like the parallel American case — will continue into 2016 as trials begin and more officials fear their illicit profiteering from sporting contracts is uncovered. At the same time, FIFA will implement reforms designed to clean up the organization and elect a new president on Feb. 26. Perhaps what surprised soccer fans in 2015 as much as the arrests was the interest of U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch in such sleaze.

But the significant role the world's most popular sport plays in the U.S. was confirmed not only by Lynch but by Americans at, of all things in this year, a FIFA event. When the U.S. won a third Women's World Cup title in July, the victory over Japan was watched by more than 25 million American television viewers.

The wrong side of passion for soccer in the U.S. was also displayed this year when the AP filmed fans from New York rivals City and Red Bulls clashing before their derby in New Jersey in August, hooliganism previously associated with European supporters.

One of the enduring images, though, of a soccer year scarred by wrongdoing was of the game's ability to provide a powerful platform for unity after becoming a target for Islamic extremists in last month's Paris attacks. □

## Court rejects Madrid's appeal of Copa del Rey case

**HAROLD HECKLE**  
**Associated Press**

**MADRID (AP)** — Real Madrid has refused to concede defeat in its disqualification from the Copa del Rey for fielding an ineligible player.

The club said Monday it will switch to the country's regular law courts to challenge the Spanish soccer federation's decision.

Spain's top sports tribunal, the Administrative Court of Sport, had earlier Monday dismissed Madrid's appeal against its exclusion

from the competition.

In a statement, Madrid said it "respects but does not agree with the court's ruling and as such announces its decision to pursue a judicial-administrative course of action, along with other possible legal options, which are currently being studied."

The Administrative Court of Sport said it had "analyzed all the parties' arguments" and dismissed Madrid's appeal because it had fielded an "improper lineup."

Madrid was expelled from the competition for fielding Denis Cheryshev in a first-leg 3-1 win over Cadiz on Dec. 2 in the Spanish giant's opening round.

Cheryshev was carrying a one-match suspension for yellow cards received last season while on loan at Villarreal, a fact that Madrid seemed unaware of until halftime in the Cadiz match.

Spain's soccer federation published its decision to bar Madrid on Dec. 4.

The embarrassing mistake

further dented Madrid's image this season and deepened a crisis sparked by a demoralizing 4-0 home loss to bitter rival Barcelona.

However, the sports court left Madrid with an option to appeal the disqualification, but said it would need to take its case to Spain's regular law courts — effectively starting litigation against Spain's soccer federation.

There's not much time. The first leg match in the last 16 between Cadiz and Celta Vigo is set for Jan. 7. □



## Tech Review:

# Streaming TV services: What they cost and what you get

**The Associated Press**

**(AP)** - Cable or satellite packages, excluding promotions, can easily run \$70 to \$100 a month. That gets you hundreds of diverse channels — ESPN for sports lovers, premium channels like HBO and Showtime, the major networks and niche options. But maybe you can find more cost-effective options online.

Netflix raised the monthly price for its most popular plan by \$1, to \$10, for new customers (and eventually all customers). Online services, individually, are still cheaper. Depending on what you like to watch, however, you may need to subscribe to several. And not all of them can play at the same time for several family members.

A sampling of services for different tastes:

### SPORTS RULE:

#### DISH'S SLING TV

Price: Starts at \$20 a month. Live offering: About 20 channels, including ESPN, ABC Family, AMC and Food Network. No broadcast channels like CBS or NBC, although Univision is available in add-on packages. Add-on packages for sports, movies, kids,



This photo shows Netflix headquarters in Los Gatos, Calif. Depending on what you like to watch, you may need to subscribe to several cable, satellite or online streaming packages. And not all of them can play at the same time for several family members.

(Associated Press)

lifestyles and world news available for \$5 each, and HBO for \$15. On demand: No recording of channels, though some offer older episodes, including HBO. Access to Watch ESPN on-demand app.

Restrictions: Can watch only one stream at a time, so members of households will need multiple subscriptions, although HBO content can be streamed on 3 devices at a time. DVR controls, such as pause

and rewind, aren't available for many channels. NFL blackouts on mobile devices.

MLB.TV Price: \$110 for a full season; the price goes down throughout the season. An extra \$5 for some postseason games with alternative camera angles — not what's shown on TV.

Live offering: All Major League Baseball games, subject to hometown blackouts.

On demand: All games. Restrictions: Lots of blackouts. Extra \$20 for season to watch on mobile and streaming TV devices.

### MUST SEE TV:

#### CBS ALL ACCESS

Monthly price: \$6. Live offering: More than 100 markets. On demand: Day-after access to shows on mobile devices (on traditional computers, it's free without a subscription). Full seasons for many shows, not just past five episodes. Past seasons for a handful of shows, including "The Good Wife," "Survivor," "The Amazing Race" and

"60 Minutes."

Restrictions: Some sports blackouts.

#### HBO NOW

Price: About \$15 a month Live offering: New episodes are available through apps about the same time they are shown on TV.

On demand: Current and past seasons of most HBO shows, including "Games of Thrones," "Girls" and "The Sopranos." Hundreds of movies.

Restrictions: You must subscribe through a partner like Apple, Amazon or Android. Cablevision and Verizon also offer HBO Now.

#### HULU

Price: \$8 a month for Plus, though many shows are free on Windows and Mac computers. \$12 a month for a version with no commercials.

Live offering: None

On demand: Next-day access to shows from ABC, NBC, Fox and CW, along with some cable channels. Some movies and original shows.

Restrictions: Fox and CW shows restricted to cable subscribers for first week. ABC requires cable or Hulu Plus subscription during that time. Plus also needed for viewing on mobile and streaming TV devices.

#### ITUNES

Price: Next-day access to shows for \$2 or \$3 an episode. Live offering: None, except for special events such as iTunes music festival. □

## German automakers want real-time car data for maps app

**FRANK JORDANS**

**Associated Press**

**BERLIN (AP)** — Audi, BMW and Daimler want to turn their cars into real-time sensors that will provide data to the HERE map service they recently purchased from Nokia, the German automakers said recently. The aim is to speed up the development of more powerful maps needed for automated driving and other applications, but also to fend off the threat from smartphone-based rivals such as Google and Apple. "We want HERE to become the world's best reality index," said Rupert Stadler, the chief executive of Audi. "This index knows what

happens where, in the very moment. It is a live representation of the world."

Data collected by cars won't be limited to traffic information. Windscreen wiper use, for example, will also be transmitted to indicate weather conditions. In a nod to consumers' privacy concerns, all information will be anonymized. "The cars will send data about the current driving situation but not about the driver," said BMW's chief technology officer, Klaus Froehlich. It will be supplemented with data provided from smartphones, wearable devices and even traffic lights, he added. The automakers will each hold

a 1/3rd stake in the company, but the aim is to take a hands-off approach to ownership. The companies will encourage other car manufacturers to cooperate with the service by also providing data, a move that would pit the auto industry against Google and Apple, whose smartphone apps are increasingly used by drivers.

HERE president Sean Fernback said the backing of three major automakers, who jointly paid 2.5 billion euros (\$2.7 billion) for the company, would allow it to develop a new generation of high-definition maps and fill out the white spaces in its service — notably China. □

## FOR SALE



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## Mutual fund trends:

# Stock pickers increasingly bulking up on bank stocks

**STAN CHOE**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — By themselves, neither is very popular. But together, perhaps, they can win some fans? Stock-picking mutual funds, which investors have been fleeing, are increasingly bulking up on bank stocks in hope of beating index funds and luring back dol-

to a review by Goldman Sachs. That's 1.65 percentage points more than S&P 500 index funds have. That may not sound like a big difference, but it's the sector where active managers most differ from index funds, by far. The next-biggest "overweight" by actively managed funds is in the industrial sector. Man-

conventional wisdom says, would be hurt by rising rates. They own fewer real-estate investment trusts, utilities and telecoms than index funds do, for example. These kinds of stocks pay high dividends, and the thought is demand for them will drop as income investors gravitate back to bonds.

cially conscious funds consider whether companies are helping or hurting the environment, promoting good corporate governance or reducing income inequality. These factors could ultimately help protect or hurt companies' profits over the long term, proponents say. "Our numbers show that



**A trader works in the Goldman Sachs booth on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stock-picking mutual funds, which investors have been fleeing, are increasingly bulking up on bank stocks in hope of beating index funds and luring back dollars.**  
(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

lars. That, plus other trends from around the mutual-fund industry:

### — Banking on banks

Actively managed mutual funds are struggling. Most have fallen short of the Standard & Poor's 500 index for years, and the reason to pay their higher fees is for the chance to beat index funds. Only 27 percent of large-cap core mutual funds beat the S&P 500 this year, as of Dec. 9. To improve their returns and lure investors back, stock pickers are increasingly betting on stocks of banks and insurers. Large-cap core mutual funds have an average of 17.8 percent of their portfolios invested in financial stocks, according

to a review by Goldman Sachs. That's 1.65 percentage points more of their portfolios there than index funds do.

The emphasis on banks is part of a broader approach to take advantage of rising interest rates, now that the Federal Reserve has raised short-term rates for the first time in nearly a decade. The Fed's move earlier this month, and expectations for more increases, give banks cover to charge more for credit cards, auto loans and other products, which should help their profits. Higher rates should also help insurers, allowing their vast bond holdings to produce more income. At the same time, fund managers have also lightened up on stocks that,

### — Doing good; doing well

Actively managed mutual funds have been hemorrhaging dollars generally, but one niche within stock picking has remained consistently popular. Socially responsible mutual funds have drawn more investment dollars than they've lost in every 12-month period going back to late 2013, according to Morningstar. They attracted \$2 billion in net investment over the year through November, for example. That's in stark contrast to the \$163 billion that actively managed U.S. stock funds lost as a group over the same time. Investors like that these so-

sustainable investing has become part of the mainstream," said Lisa Woll, chief executive of the Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment, which also goes by the name US SIF. Hundreds of funds incorporate environmental, social or governance factors in their investment strategies, US SIF has a list of them on its website.

### — Falling 401(k) fees

When it comes to investing for retirement, you don't necessarily get what you pay for. You keep what you don't pay for. High expenses can erode a nest egg, particularly over the decades that a worker is saving. And expenses can quickly add up. □

## STREET BRIEFS

### Deutsche Bank sells China bank stake for \$4B

**BERLIN (AP)** — Deutsche Bank says it has agreed to sell its stake in China's Hua Xia Bank to a Chinese insurer in a deal worth between 23 billion and 25.7 billion yuan (\$3.6 billion-\$4 billion). Deutsche Bank AG said in October that it no longer considered its 19.99 percent stake in Hua Xia Bank strategic. Germany's biggest bank announced Monday that it will sell the entire stake to PICC Property and Casualty Company Limited. It said that the deal's value will depend on "final price adjustment at closing" and the sale will have a positive financial impact. Co-CEO John Cryan said that "now is the right time for us to sell this investment," which dates back to 2006, but added that China remains a key growth market for Deutsche Bank. □

### Report: Valeant CEO Pearson on a medical leave

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Valeant Pharmaceuticals CEO J. Michael Pearson is taking a medical leave of absence after he was hospitalized with pneumonia last week. Shares of the troubled Canadian pharmaceutical company fell nearly 7 percent in premarket trading Monday. Valeant says three executives will take over for Pearson in his absence. A representative for Valeant said Monday that Pearson has a "severe case of pneumonia and is receiving treatment in the hospital." The company declined to offer details on his condition or the expected length of his absence. Valeant has recently come under scrutiny for its drug pricing policies, as well as its relationship with the mail-order pharmacy Philidor. Critics believe Philidor created a network of "phantom pharmacies" to steer pharmacy benefit managers toward Valeant's more-expensive drugs, rather than to cheaper alternatives. □



# China fines global shippers on price-fixing charges

**BEIJING (AP)** — China fined seven foreign shipping companies that carry vehicles for automakers a total of \$65 million on price-fixing charges Monday in its latest effort to end anti-competitive behavior in the auto industry. Investigators found Europe's Wallenius Wilhelmsen, South Korea's EUKOR, Japan's Mitsui O.S.K. Lines and other shippers improperly coordinated bids and

routes to keep prices high, the Cabinet's planning agency said. An eighth shipper, Japan's NYK, was found to have colluded but was spared a fine. Regulators have investigated or penalized automakers, dairies and technology suppliers under China's 2008 anti-monopoly law in an effort to force down prices Chinese consumers complain are too high. Business groups say the se-

cretive and abrupt way investigations are conducted is alienating foreign companies. Regulators deny foreign companies are treated unfairly. The latest penalties target "roll-on, roll-off" shippers that move cars, trucks and construction equipment aboard specialized vessels that carry hundreds and sometimes thousands of vehicles. Representatives of the

companies met over a period of more than four years to share information and make deals to avoid competition, the National Development and Reform Commission said. It said the collusion covered routes linking China with Europe, North America and Latin America, and involved multiple auto brands. The biggest penalty of 284 million yuan (\$45 million) was imposed on EUKOR Car

Carriers Inc., according to the National Development and Reform Commission. Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics, a Swedish-Norwegian company, was fined 45 million yuan (\$7.1 million). Mitsui O.S.K. Lines Ltd. was fined 38 million yuan (\$6 million). Other companies penalized were Japan's K Line and Eastern Car Liner Ltd. and Chile's CSAV and CCNI. □

## American holiday spending up 8% as online sales surge

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Americans spent more on items like furniture during the holidays this year, with online shopping in particular seeing a big spike, according to a report released Monday.

Overall spending rose 7.9 percent from a year ago, according to the MasterCard SpendingPulse report, which tracks retail sales across cards, cash and checks from Black Friday to Christmas Eve. The uptick was driven by people sitting in the comfort of their homes or at work, with online shopping up 20 percent.

Shopping at physical stores still accounts for the majority of spending during the holidays. But the continuing shift to online shopping is forcing retailers to improve their websites, or offer perks like faster or free delivery. Earlier this month, another report by First Data also found that online sales growth was



**Amazon Prime employee Alicia Jackson hunts for items at the company's urban fulfillment facility that have been ordered by customers in New York. Americans spent more on items like furniture during the holidays this year, with online shopping in particular seeing a big spike, according to a report released Monday.**

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

outpacing sales growth at physical stores. That report was based on payments from Oct. 31 to Dec. 14. The SpendingPulse report does not include spending

by dollar amounts. But the National Retail Federation, the nation's largest retail trade group, expects sales for November and December to rise 3.7 percent to

\$630.5 billion from a year ago. For the traditional holiday shopping period from Black Friday to Christmas Eve, the MasterCard SpendingPulse

report found that furniture sales rose in the double-digit percentages, indicating that people are "willing and able" to spend on big-ticket items. □

## Saudi Arabia posts \$98B deficit amid low oil prices

**A. AL-SHIHRI  
AYA BATRAWY  
Associated Press**

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)** — Saudi Arabia said Monday that this year's budget deficit amounted to \$98 billion (367 billion riyals) as lower oil prices cut into the government's main source of revenue, prompting the kingdom to scale back spending for the coming year. For the third consecutive year, the kingdom said it

will post a budget shortfall in 2016, projecting a deficit of \$87 billion (327 billion riyals). The government said it projects expenditures of \$224 billion (840 billion riyals) in 2016, roughly \$5 billion (20 billion riyals) less than what the government projected in 2015. The budget is being watched closely by investors to see how the government plans to consolidate years of heavy spending when oil prices were more

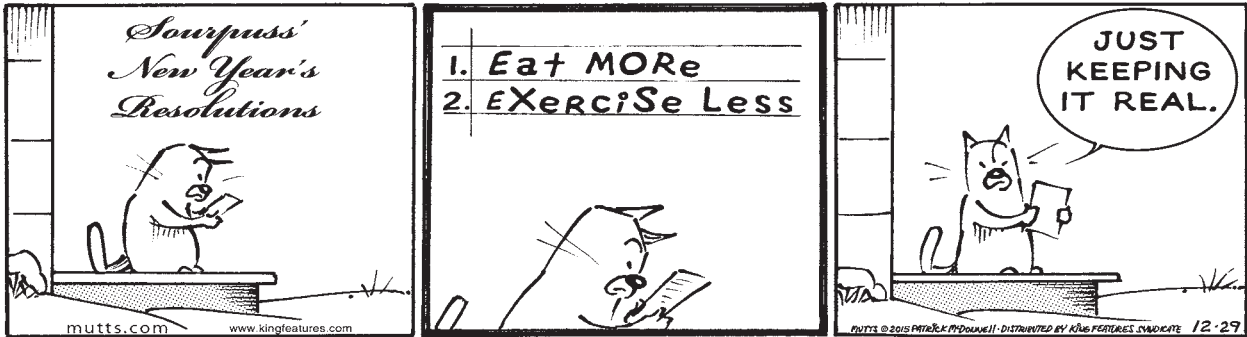
than double what they are now. Benchmark U.S. crude was trading Monday at \$37.46 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The kingdom announced projected revenues for the coming fiscal year of \$137 billion (513 billion riyals), around \$26 billion (95 billion riyals) less than the total for 2015. As is typical for the published version of the budget, it did not include a projected oil price. Next year's bud-

get suggests Saudi Arabia is basing its revenue on a price of \$26 a barrel for export crude, if production remains at 10.2 million barrels per day, said Fahad Alturki, chief economist and head of research at Saudi-based Jadwa Investment. That's less than half the \$56 per barrel priced into the projected 2015 budget. Despite projecting it would spend \$229.3 billion (860 billion riyals) in 2015, the kingdom actually spent

\$260 billion (975 billion riyals), in large part because of handouts King Salman doled out to the public when he ascended the throne earlier this year. The London-based research consultancy Capital Economics said in a report issued this month that the Saudi budget takes on additional prominence because it is the first under the new monarch, who ascended to the throne in early 2015. □



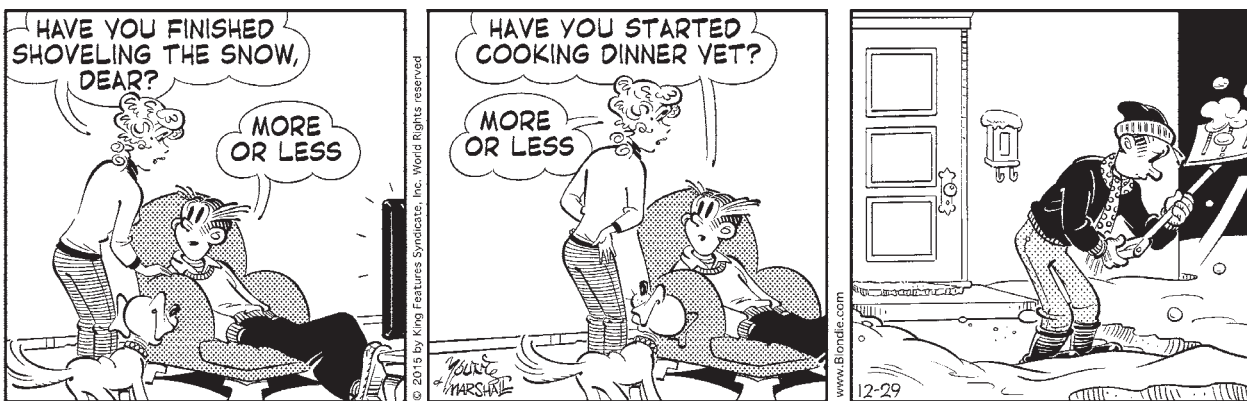
Mutts



6 Chix



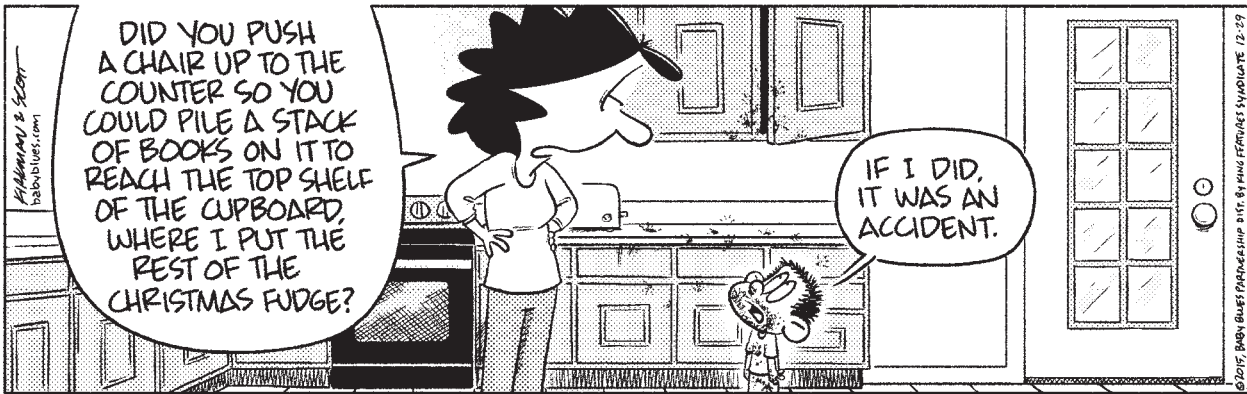
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4				3		1	
7								9
			9	4	7			
6		5	1		4	9		
		3				2		
		7	6		9	5		3
			4	9	5			
8								4
	6		8				2	

Difficulty Level ★★

12/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

4	7	8	1	5	2	6	3	9
2	6	5	3	9	4	1	7	8
3	1	9	6	8	7	2	4	5
1	9	2	5	7	6	3	8	4
8	5	4	2	3	1	7	9	6
7	3	6	9	4	8	5	1	2
5	4	1	8	6	3	9	2	7
9	8	3	7	2	5	4	6	1
6	2	7	4	1	9	8	5	3

ACROSS

- At loose ; unsettled and upset
- Actor's award
- Vegan fare
- Oaf
- San Antonio's biggest tourist attraction
- Lofty poems
- Wear a long face
- House cat
- Learn by ; memorize
- Only roughly outlined
- Peon
- Twelfth-graders: abbr.
- Actress Hunt
- Metal mixture
- Passing craze
- Leaning
- Caramel-topped custard
- Engine additive
- Irish accent
- Children's running game
- Uneasy
- Vegas
- Come forth
- Flying mammal
- Praise highly
- More unusual
- Diving bird
- In a bad mood
- Minimum
- Enemy
- Window covers
- Like an outstanding bill
- Hatfields or McCoy's
- Capital of Afghanistan
- Twofold
- Dad's sister
- Roaring beasts
- Secure with a key
- New York team
- Thrill
- Watches

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21			22		23			
24						25						
26	27	28			29			30	31	32	33	
34				35			36					
37				38			39			40		
41			42			43				44		
45					46				47			
48				49			50					
51	52	53				54			55	56	57	
58				59		60			61			
62				63					64			
65					66				67			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/29/15

Monday's Puzzle Solved

SAVES	META	ANDS
AWASH	AGED	NAIL
PRICE	ROAM	NOVA
SYNOPSIS	ICEMAN	
RACE	PRATING	
BISTRO	ALERT	
EON	DOUSE	DEALT
SWAP	TRIAL	SNOW
SAGAS	GATES	NBA
SHEEN	MASSES	
PISTOLS	SODA	
INCITE	MANDIBLE	
ADAM	CRAB	ELLEN
NINE	TAME	SOUND
OATS	STAR	TRESS

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12/29/15

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 36 However              | 50 Insincere         |
| 38 Say "Amen!"          | 51 Con game          |
| 39 Furniture wood       | 52 Board game        |
| 42 Gives in             | 53 Carry on          |
| 44 Sewing machine pedal | 54 Football kick     |
| 46 Attack               | 55 Floating object   |
| 47 Playfully shy        | 56 Frilly trimming   |
| 49 Leg joint            | 57 Antlered critters |
|                         | 60 Deadly crusher    |



# Classifieds

## Time Share For Sale by Owner Divi Golf

week 51, x-mas wk,  
unit 4206, 2 rm  
suite, lock off master. sleep 4, 2  
baths, elegant furnishing, granite  
kitchen, washer dryer, steps to  
priced below market, \$5900 26  
wks left on contract, equity value  
\$13,500  
rmwjmw@aol.com  
Phone: 508 651 0016

204201

## Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

1 bedroom Gold O.V. Price :\$7000  
1Bedroom Gold O.F. Price :\$8500  
2Bedroom Gold O.V. Price :\$9500  
2 Bedroom Gold O.F. Price:\$14500  
1 Bedroom Platinum O.V.  
Price:\$12000  
2 Bedroom Platinum O.V.  
Price:\$18000  
2 Bedroom Platinum O.F.  
Price: \$30000  
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Price:\$150,000  
2 BR ,O.V Plat Plus WK 51  
Price:\$46000  
2 BR ,O.V.Plat Plus WK 52  
Price:\$54000  
2 BR ,O.V. Plat.\$16000,2BR,O.S.  
Plat,\$17500  
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Renovated Room, Check in Sunday.  
Price:\$40,000 both weeks  
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1 BR WK 3 RM#324 P.O.V.  
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wk 40	room 336	\$3,750
wk 40	room 105	\$5,000
wk 42	room 338	\$4,000
wk 43	room 329	\$3,250
wk 49	room 144	\$5,500
wk 50	room 546	\$6,000
wk 49	room 2571	\$3,750
wk 48	room 517	\$3,750
wk 48 or 49	room 119	\$4,750
wk 48 or 49	room 551	\$5,500
wk 49 or 50	room 203	\$5,500
wk 21 or 22	room 347	\$4,000

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vr.realty@mac.com

203667

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2 bedroom lock out January 1-8th  
\$1050  
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December 25 or  
mwallmitch@gmail.com

204247

## FOR RENT

week 52 \$2,000 1bdr  
week 2 \$1,400 ST  
week 3 \$1,400 ST  
at Divi Link's  
Call: 730 2151

204248

## Time Share For Sale/ Rent Tropicana

week 3, 1/17/16 2 Queen beds,  
couch rent \$860 buy \$2075  
check in date can be changed for  
a fee and La Quinta special sale  
unit 2304, 1 br, 12/12 \$1675 or  
best offer  
[rmwjmw@aol.com](mailto:rmwjmw@aol.com)  
Phone: 508 651 0016

204234

## Time -Share for sale by owner

### Marriott Surf Club

week #51 plat plus  
2 br, ocean view \$39,000  
Allan (Owner)  
Call. 917 445 0077  
allan@ratafia.com

204239

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### San Nicolas

Dr. Giel  
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FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
HOSPITAL	527-4000
DENTAL CLINIC	587-9850
AMBULANCE	582-1234
CENTRO MEDICO	523-8833

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San Nicolas: San Lucas Tel: 584-5119

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PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

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December 30

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Zenith  
Monarch



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American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Aruba Airlines	583-8300
Jet Blue	588-2244
Surinam	582-7896
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

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## FUNDACION

### Anti-Droga

### Aruba

(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

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## QUOTA Club

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## Women in Difficulties Foundation

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## Alaska's Inuit link steady food supply to environment health



Men haul sections of whale skin and blubber, known as muktuk, as a bowhead whale is butchered in a field near Barrow, Alaska. The environment is changing and the Inuit, who consider themselves a part of it, want measures taken to protect their culture.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

**DAN JOLING**

**Associated Press**

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**

— Alaska Inuit hunter John Goodwin for decades has hunted oogruk, the bearded seal, a marine mammal prized for its meat, oil and hide.

The largest of Alaska's ice seals uses sea ice to rest and birth pups, and after the long winter, when ice breaks into floes, there's a window of opportunity for Goodwin to leave his home in Kotzebue and motor his boat between ice panels, shoot seals and butcher them before they migrate north through the Bering Strait.

A hunting season that used to last weeks, however, has shrunk. Ice that formerly froze 5-feet (1.5-meters) thick or more is a fraction of that. Ice disappears quick-

ly, and so do the seals.

"As soon as the sun comes out, it starts melting, or we have a heavy rain," Goodwin said. "Basically, it's the rain that deteriorates the ice real quick. We don't have enough time to hunt." The environment is changing and the Inuit, who consider themselves a part of it, want measures taken to protect their culture. A report issued this month by the Inuit Circumpolar Council-Alaska, which advocates for Inuit coast villages from southwest to north Alaska, calls for policies that protect Inuit traditional food and the Arctic environment that produces it.

"When we say food security, it has to do with the health of all of it," said Carolina Behe, the organization's indigenous knowl-

edge and science adviser. More than 90 percent of the food purchased with cash in Alaska comes in from elsewhere and a reliable food supply in more urban communities like Anchorage means affordable prices and uninterrupted service on groceries shipped north by barge or jet.

For the Inuit, who have survived for thousands of years in one of the harshest climates on Earth, food is the connection between the past and today's culture, according to the report.

Food is survival and identity. Over millennia, the capturing of caribou or seals, the gathering of salmonberries, how they were processed, stored and shared was incorporated into art, storytelling, dance, drumming,

education and language. "Our traditional foods are much more than calories or nutrients; they are a lifeline throughout our culture and reflect the health of the entire Arctic ecosystem," the report's authors said.

As changes arose, Inuit leaders began talking at public forums about food. Their concept of secure food differed from the concept held by people in academia and government, who spoke of nutritional value and purchasing power.

At a meeting four years ago, Behe recalled, someone asked whether the Inuit were looking forward to increased shipping because it would create more opportunity to move in food. "Our people were saying the exact opposite: We're really concerned

about these ships because they're going to disrupt our hunting, the noise is disrupting the animals, the pollutants, and that's a threat to food security," Behe said. The report, assembled through visits to 15 Inuit villages and with 146 listed authors, urges Arctic policy decisions through the lens of food. Inuit leaders want the baseline data collected on the Arctic ecosystem using both science and indigenous knowledge, Behe said.

A scientist researching salmon might look first at population dynamics. An elder might taste the water, look at streamside vegetation, check fish scales and gauge the texture of the meat, Behe said.

The report notes the fragmented nature of land, ocean and wildlife management. State officials set hunting seasons.

Federal officials oversee harvesting of marine mammals and industrial ocean fisheries.

International agreements are considered in salmon and migratory bird decisions. Sources within the United States and internationally contribute to warming and pollutants affecting the Arctic. Researchers want a better understanding on how rapid change in the Arctic is affecting natural systems and people.

That's also increasingly important for the Arctic Council, the eight-country forum that promotes cooperation and interaction between Arctic countries, said Fran Ulmer, chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission.

People who are causing change in the Arctic from greenhouse gases or pollution, Behe said, must take responsibility for actions affecting the Inuit. □



## What's On TV:

## Weight-loss resolution? Watch 'In Defense of Food' first



In this undated photo provided by Kikim Media, author and host Michael Pollan educates viewers how to shop the outer perimeter of the supermarket to find real food rather than "food-like substances," in a scene from the documentary film, "In Defense of Food." The film is based on Pollan's book, "In Defense of Food," and premieres on PBS on Dec. 30, 2015.

LYNN ELBER  
AP Television Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — January is looming, and we all know what that means: A resolution to lose weight and get healthy. Just like the 2015 declaration. And the one before that.

What diet to choose this time? Low-fat? Low-carb? Gluten-free or prehistoric? Or just throw out the scale and surrender to fate and French fries?

Stop, take a breath and consider instead a seven-word alternative offered by prominent food writer Michael Pollan that embraces clarity and shuns extremism.

Here goes: Eat food, not too much, mostly plants. Behind that advice is a wealth of scientific, medical and anecdotal evidence as explored in the documentary "In Defense of Food," airing 9-11 p.m. EST Wednesday on PBS stations (check local listings). Pollan is an amiable, engaging guide through a buffet line that includes the how and why of the modern diet, the ever-shifting barrage of confusing, conflicting decrees (Don't eat eggs! Eat eggs!) and, most importantly, realistic alternatives to chew over.

"The more I worked on this issue, the more I real-

ized that painting things in black and white is not the way to help people move, because people move incrementally," said Pollan, whose books include "In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto" and "The Omnivore's Dilemma."

"Relaxing about our eating is really important, too. I don't want to make people more anxious about it," he added. "We already are made very anxious."

But there is reason for concern. A sharp rise in U.S. obesity and diabetes parallels our devotion to a diet heavy in meat, white flour and fat.

And sugar: We consume about 1,000 percent more of it per day than we did 200 years ago, Dr. Robert Lustig, a professor at the University of California, San Francisco, says in "In Defense of Food."

Among the guidelines Pollan offers in the documentary: — "When I say, 'Eat food,' I'm basically saying eat the kinds of things that people have been eating for a long time," including meat, fish, vegetables, fruit and grains, but everything in moderation.

— Avoid supermarket center aisles that harbor the processed foods that Pollan labels "edible food-like

substances" that don't deserve to be called food. "If it came from a plant, eat it. If it was made in a plant, don't," he says.

— Use smaller plates and glasses to reduce portions. Pollan says his inclusion of meat — in limited quantities — hasn't made his approach popular with carnivores who feel he's dissing their choices or with vegetarians. But it reflects his approach to being a happy and healthy eater.

"Absolutism in the quest for food is a huge mistake," he said.

Even those eager to change their diet face daunting challenges. Processed foods are convenient, loaded with the salt, fat and sugar that "really push our evolutionary buttons" and are backed by multibillion-dollar marketing efforts, Pollan said.

And there are communities where residents have limited or no access to affordable and nourishing food (although the correlation between bad eating and such "food deserts" is more complicated than has been discussed, Pollan contends).

Whatever the obstacles, he refuses to give Americans a pass when it comes to making better choices.

Start by dropping misguid-

ed ideas and self-imposed restrictions, Pollan said. Food doesn't have to be local or even fresh to make the grade, with frozen and canned vegetables good nutritional choices. And try cooking instead of bringing home dinner in a fast-food box, even if it's just once a week to start. Homemade meals can be economical as well as

healthy, he said. They do take time and planning, but Pollan urges us to consider the payoff in our well-being.

"Part of my argument is this is so important its worth making a priority. When the (food) industry represents such an easy alternative, it's very attractive. But you can't let them set the agenda for you," he said. □

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## 'Star Wars' makers have high hopes for China success



From left, director J.J. Abrams, producer Kathleen Kennedy, actress Daisy Ridley and actor John Boyega pose with droids character BB-8 and R2-D2 on stage during the premiere of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" in Shanghai, China, Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015.

(Chinatopix via AP)

**SHANGHAI (AP)** — The latest Star Wars movie broke the \$1 billion mark before fans in China could see it, but producers anticipate "The Force Awakens" will play "very very well" in the world's second-biggest film market. The film opens in China on Jan. 9. Director J.J. Abrams watched the Chinese pre-

miere in Shanghai with a Chinese audience Sunday night. He told a news conference Monday that he was thrilled to see people "laughing and cheering in exactly the same places that we've seen other audiences." "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" took 12 days to earn \$1 billion worldwide, becoming the fastest movie to achieve such a feat. The previous movie to reach \$1 billion the fastest was "Jurassic World," which did it in 13 days in June — and which had the benefit of record grosses in China.

"Star Wars" producer Kathleen Kennedy said the movie's success to date was "a huge surprise."

"We certainly hoped for enormous success but I think the fact that we crossed the billion-dollars ... it's almost so overwhelming it's difficult to really process just what the response has been to the movie so far, and it hasn't even opened

here yet," she said.

"Certainly we're hoping and anticipating that it will play very very well here."

The Chinese market has become increasingly important for Hollywood as revenues from movie theaters stagnate at home. Some movies have incorporated Chinese characters or stories to try to appeal to the Chinese movie-going audience. Asked whether "Star Wars" movies would do the same in the future, Kennedy said they had just finished shooting "Rogue One," the first stand alone "Star Wars" story. Hong Kong martial arts actor Donnie Yen and Chinese actor and director Jiang Wen have roles in it.

"They play wonderful characters and certainly there are many mythologies inside Chinese literature that I know we can explore in the future and find ways in which we can integrate some of those stories into the Star Wars universe," said Kennedy. □

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# Oscar winning cameraman Haskell Wexler dies at 93

JOHN ROGERS  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Haskell Wexler, one of Hollywood's most famous and honored cinematographers and one whose innovative approach helped him win Oscars for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" and the Woody Guthrie biopic "Bound for Glory," died Sunday. He was 93.

Wexler died peacefully in his sleep, his son, Oscar-nominated sound man Jeff Wexler, told The Associated Press.

A liberal activist, Wexler photographed some of the most socially relevant and influential films of the 1960s and 1970s, including the Jane Fonda-Jon Voight anti-war classic, "Coming Home," the Sidney Poitier-Rod Steiger racial drama "In the Heat of the Night" and the Oscar-winning adaptation of Ken Kesey's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest."

He was also the rare cinematographer known enough to the general public to receive a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

"He was a wonderful father. I owe most of who I am to his wisdom and guidance," said his son, nominated for Oscars himself for "Independence Day" and "The Last Samurai."

"Even in an industry where, when you're working on a movie, there is not much else you can do, he was always there for me," Jeff Wexler said.

Fonda praised Wexler on

her Twitter account.

"The brilliant, beloved Oscar-winning cinematographer, Haskell Wexler has died. He was my friend. He filmed 'Coming Home' and

ing the story of a fictional television photographer (Robert Forster) who covers the violence between Chicago police and protesters at the 1968 Democratic

versatile and intuitive approach.

For "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf," the last film to receive an Oscar for best black and white cinema-

As visual consultant on George Lucas' "American Graffiti," he hosed down the streets to achieve a moody, reflective style. He helped give Terence Malick's "Days of Heaven" a hazy, dreamlike atmosphere.

Wexler was also noted for his clashes with directors. Francis Ford Coppola fired him during the filming of "The Conversation." Milos Forman dropped him during the filming of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and Wexler shared the cinematography credit with Bill Butler.

For one of his documentaries, 2006's "Who Needs Sleep?" Wexler turned his attention to the film industry itself, decrying the long hours endured by Hollywood set workers. It was inspired by the death of a worker who fell asleep driving his car after a 19-hour stint on a movie set.

Wexler's other documentaries include: "The Bus," about the Freedom Riders who risked their lives to integrate the South in the 1960s; "Latino," which examined American policy in Nicaragua; "Interviews with My Lai Veterans," which shined a light on survivors of U.S. brutality in Vietnam; and "Brazil: Report on Torture."

Born into a well-to-do Chicago family on Feb. 6, 1922, Wexler was still in grade school when he went to work for a photographer involved in the trade-union movement. □



In this 2011 photo, cinematographer Haskell Wexler poses at the premiere of the documentary film "Revenge of the Electric Car," at Tesla Motors in Los Angeles. Wexler, the two-time Oscar-winning cinematographer and prominent social activist, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015. He was 93. (AP Photo/Chris Pizzello)

a documentary with me and Tom Hayden in North Vietnam in 1973. He was brave & gorgeous and I loved him," she wrote.

When the elder Wexler wasn't working on big-budget studio fare, he traveled the world directing and photographing documentaries for favorite causes.

His 1969 "Medium Cool" mixed documentary and dramatic elements, tell-

National Convention. The real-life unrest was filmed on the spot for the movie, and its "cinema verite" approach was closely studied by aspiring filmmakers.

"I was under surveillance for the entire seven weeks I was in Chicago, by the police, the Army and the Secret Service," Wexler once told a reporter.

Throughout his career, Wexler was noted for his

tography, he used hand-held cameras to capture the tension of the tirades between Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton. For "In the Heat of the Night," he put silks over the tops of sets and aimed lights at their centers. His aim was to contribute to the tension between Poitier's big-city black detective and Steiger's Southern white lawman.

## Abstract artist Ellsworth Kelly dies at 92 at New York home

SPENCERTOWN, N.Y. (AP)

— Ellsworth Kelly, a painter, sculptor and printmaker whose work over seven decades made him one of America's leading abstract artists, has died. He was 92. Kelly's Manhattan gallerist, Matthew Marks Gallery, said he died Sunday at his upstate New York home. Peter Wenk, the owner of a funeral home near Kelly's home studio in Spencertown, on Monday confirmed Kelly's death but couldn't provide any other details, such as the cause.

In recent years, the artist had been suffering from lung ailments.

Born in Newburgh in New York's Hudson Valley in 1923, Kelly grew up in New Jersey and enrolled in art school in New York City in 1941.

He left school during World War II, when he painted camouflage patterns on fake tanks and other military objects produced by a special Army unit to deceive the Germans. Among his comrades was Bill Blass, the future fashion

designer.

Kelly moved to Paris after the war to study art. He returned to New York in the mid-1950s to begin creating the boldly colored geometric paintings that were exhibited in the Museum of Modern Art, as well as in museums and galleries across the United States and Europe.

During a 1970 trip to upstate New York to scout locations for another studio, he found a vacant second-floor space with

12-foot windows in a Victorian building in the village of Chatham. It was there he would create one of his signature works, "The Chatham Series," 14 L-shaped monochrome panels that were first displayed in 1972 at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo.

He later built a new studio on property a few miles away in Spencertown, near the Massachusetts border. He lived there with his longtime partner Jack Spear, a photographer and collector.

Matthew Marks, who has sold and exhibited Kelly's work since the early 1990s, said the artist was still in demand and thus creating right up to the end, with various paintings and sculptures in the works.

"He was amazing," Marks told The Associated Press. "It's like he kept getting better and better."

In July 2013, Kelly was one of 24 recipients of the National Medal of Arts bestowed during a White House ceremony with President Barack Obama. □



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